PCGG: 157 Masters' artworks missing

STORY ON PAGE A2

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Travel bans imperil 50,000 tourism jobs

By Jerome Aning

SOME 50,000 jobs in the local tourism industry will be lost if the United States, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore do not lift their advisories telling their citizens not to travel to the country, the Federation of Tourism Industries in the Philippines (FTIP) warned yesterday.

Alejandra Clemente, FTIP president, said

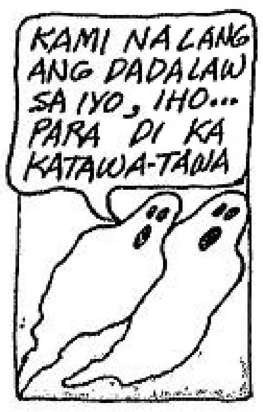
TRAVEL/ A18

Jinggoy's Halloween bid bucked

By V. Contreras and M. Ubac

AFTER a "Halloween vacation" from jail, what will Jinggoy Estrada ask next? A chance to

JINGGOY'S /A21


KAMI NA LANG ANG DADALAW SA IYO, IHO... PARA DI KA KATAWA-TAWA

YOU leaders say they support GMA

Macapagal talks to suspects of 'Black October' plot

THE CENTER of attention day after his 10-hour detention at Camp Crame, Supt. Rafael Cardeño, chair of the Young Officers Union, appears pleased with himself at a Palace briefing after a meeting on Thursday night with President Macapagal. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Cathy C. Yamsuan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo secured last night the support of two leaders of the Young Officers Union (YOU), one of the groups suspected of plotting a coup against her nine-month-old administration.

Superintendents Rafael Cardeño and Diosdado Valeroso, YOU chair and founding chair, appeared the proverbial prodigal sons when they emerged from their 30-minute meeting with the President in Malacañang.

"It was a heart-to-heart talk . . . We hit a chord somewhere. She treated us well," Cardeño told reporters in an impromptu briefing.

"(She was) motherly. Now and again she (welcomes back) prodigal sons (from the) Left or Right," he added, smiling.

Cardeño spent more than 10 hours inside Camp Crame from Wednesday afternoon to early morning yesterday.

He allegedly spent most of that time denying involvement in the so-called "Black October" coup plot. But he did not display any ill feelings yesterday.

Upon the suggestion of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Cardeño and Valeroso met with the President in the company of Col. Joe Gamos and Maj. Roy de Vesa, both from the Department of National Defense.

Cardeño and Valeroso, claiming to speak on behalf of the YOU, denied coup rumors.

"There's no truth to any of those rumors, for and in behalf of the YOU," Cardeño said. "All of these rumors are bringing down our economy. It's not good anymore. It just gets exploited."

He added: "We support this administration. So any other report of a coup rumor, we just set aside."

The two men said they prom-

YOU/ A18

US urged to finish off Taliban, send ground troops

SHERKAT, Afghanistan—A day after the heaviest US bombing yet in their sector, Northern Alliance fighters on Thursday called on the United States to bring in ground troops and finish off the Taliban quickly.

In Pakistan, more than 1,000 Afghans on Thursday also demanded a swift end to hostilities in Afghanistan and called on the country's former king to help form a multiethnic government.

"If America wants to finish off terrorism and the Taliban in Afghanistan, it must bring in ground troops," said Eztullah, a leader of a small group of opposition fighters near the front north of the capital Kabul.

"This should be quick," said Eztullah who, like many Afghans, uses only one name.

US jets roared overhead again on Thursday afternoon, heading for the Taliban frontlines north of Kabul for the fifth straight day of bombardment.

US warplanes also bombed the Taliban's headquarters in Kandahar, hitting a bus at the city gates and killing at least 10 civilians, according to Taliban officials and local residents.

Northern Alliance officers in the Bagram district, where the anti-Taliban opposition has control of a former Soviet air base, said they had seen 12 US jets dropping two bombs each along the frontlines in Bagram and neighboring Rabat district on Wednesday afternoon.

An opposition commander, Haji Bari, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the Northern Alliance was bringing in thousands of fresh troops and weapons in anticipation of a green light from alliance leaders to march on Kabul.

US President George W. Bush ordered air strikes against Afghanistan after the ruling Taliban militia repeatedly refused to hand over Osama bin Laden, the main suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist bombings in New York and Washington.

US air strikes this week have focused on positions held by the Taliban militia as well as Bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network in Kabul and the key northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif so the Northern Alliance can advance on those cities.

US/ A18

Kidnapper says gov't paid ₱30M for release of Chinese hostage

By Aquiles Z. Zonio and Hernan P. dela Cruz
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The leader of the Pentagon kidnap gang yesterday claimed that the government paid P30 million in ransom for the release of Chinese hostage Zhang Zhongyi.

Muhammad Faizal Marohombsar, head of the Pentagon group, said in a television interview that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) pocketed P20 million while his group got P10 million.

A breakaway group of the Pentagon gang is also demanding ransom for the release of Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, according to a military official.

Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, head of the Task Force Giuseppe, said the breakaway group wanted P8.3 million for Pierantoni's freedom.

Marohombsar's claim contradicted earlier statements made by MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu that the Chinese hostage was freed after the MILF applied "Islamic persuasion" on the kidnap group.

Kabalu earlier said that he had no knowledge whether ransom was paid for Zhang's release. MILF sources, however, confirmed the payment but refused to give details.

The Pentagon gang handed over Zhang to four MILF emissaries in Rajamuda, Pikit, North Cotabato, last week. The MILF then turned over the kidnap victim to Libyan Ambassador Salem Adem and Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema.

Zhang, his two Chinese co-workers and a Filipino guide were snatched by the Pentagon gang on Aug. 12 while delivering P5 million in ransom for the release of his brother Zhang Zhongqiang.

Zhongqiang was kidnapped in June while he was on his way to an irrigation project in

KIDNAPPER/ A20

Lacson pins 'coup plot' on Berroya, reporter

By Cynthia D. Balana and Cathy C. Yamsuan

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday named Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, a police reporter from the Manila Bulletin, and radio station dzRH as those responsible for the supposed "Black October" coup plot.

He identified the reporter as Aris Ilagan, who is also a dzRH correspondent covering Camp Crame.

Lacson said Ilagan was on Berroya's payroll and had been identified by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's accuser, Robert Rivero, as a PCSO consultant receiving P20,000 a month.

"This is definitely to deflect the attention of the public from the investigations on Arroyo's involvement in the (telecommunications) scam and misuse of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds," said Lacson.

"In short, they are the ones be-

LACSON/ A18

THERE goes what's his name... Since 1999 when he was mugged on a Toronto street he has lost his memory but not his love for opera and his facility with languages. Global amnesia the doctors call it. AP

'Nowhere man': It is as though I don't exist

NEW YORK—Once, he had a name. And a birth certificate. And all the other scraps of paper that made him somebody.

Somebody with the right to live and work and travel. Somebody with the right to be protected in a country that cherished his very existence because he could prove it. Somebody with a future because he knew his past.

But that was in another life—a life that ended two years ago when he was mugged on a Toronto street. He was robbed of his wallet and his memory.

Worse, he was robbed of his identity.

He awoke in a hospital in November 1999, not knowing who he was or where he came from. He didn't know where he had learned

NOWHERE/ A20

Heroic cop left 5 kids, housing loan

By Cathy Yamsuan, Gerald Lacuarta and Andrea Echavez

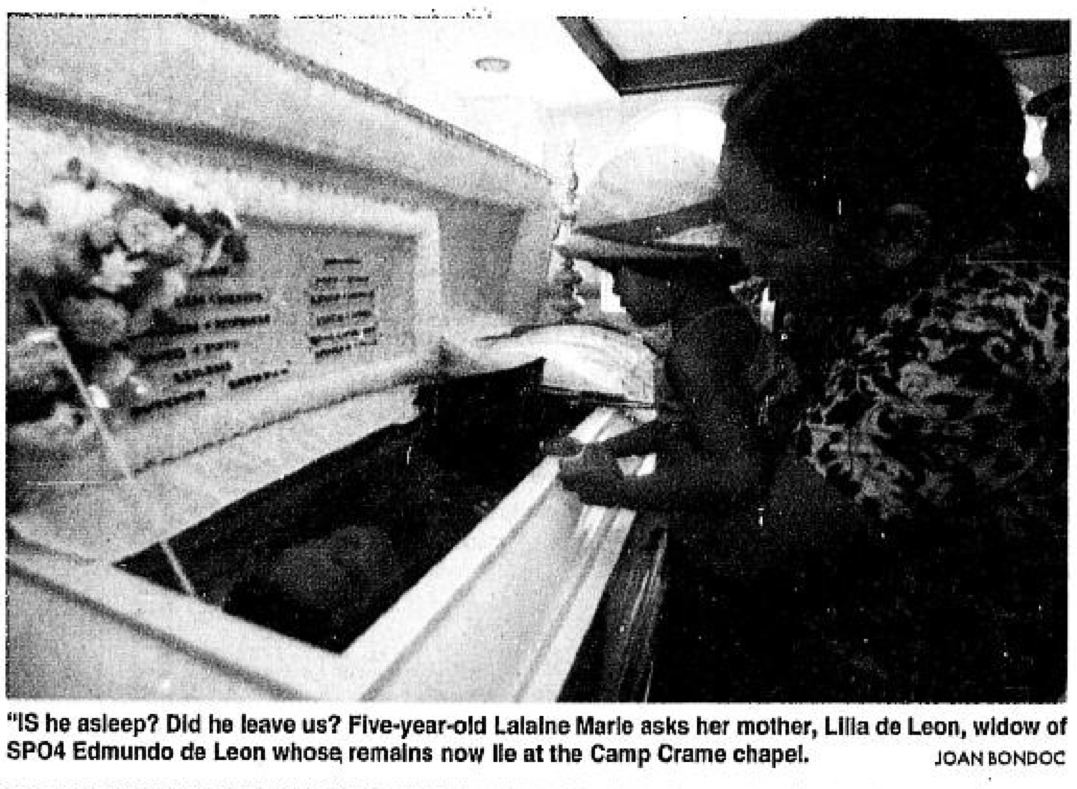
"BEFORE he left the night before, I had this urge to go after him. I could not explain it. He was kind and dedicated but he was not the sentimental type," Lilia de Leon recalled that last time she spent with her husband.

The following day, she was doing the laundry when she overheard a television reporter announced that a police officer was killed during an operation against a kidnapping syndicate in Quezon City on Wednesday morning.

The night before, De Leon recalled hearing her husband mention that he would be part of an operation against a kidnap gang.

"I heard the name on TV. But the reporter said Edmundo Delon, not De Leon. I quickly stood up. Of course, I was bothered but I

HEROIC/ A18



"IS he asleep? Did he leave us? Five-year-old Lalaine Marie asks her mother, Lilia de Leon, widow of SPO4 Edmundo de Leon whose remains now lie at the Camp Crame chapel. JOAN BONDOC

Second FRONT PAGE

SINO KAYA
ANG NAGNAKAW
NG NAKAW
SA BAYAN?

IMELDA COLLECTION

157 Masters' art works missing

By Donna S. Cueto

AT LEAST 157 paintings by European masters, which formed part of the ill-gotten assets of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, are missing, according to the latest inventory of the Presidential Commission on Good Government's.

The paintings, some of which are estimated to be worth about $1 million each, have been lost on the trail of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

The PCGG is now in the process of tracing them. This is the first time that the PCGG has made an inventory of all the paintings owned by the Marcoses, all of which should have been recovered by government.

PCGG commissioners Ruben Carranza and Jorge Sarmiento said last week that there were 140 to 150 paintings missing.

But Carranza said on Wednesday that according to the PCGG's latest inventory, the number had reached 157.

Among the missing paintings are ostensible art works by such outstanding artists as Vincent Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet, Paul Klee, Edgar Degas and Pierre-Auguste Renoir.

Carranza said five of the missing paintings were lost in the United States where the Marcoses maintained several houses.

The PCGG used the 26 boxes of documents which arrived last August from its offices in the US to gather data about the Marcos paintings.

Carranza said that the agency is trying to "reconcile records" from foreign lawyers and from PCGG officials who had gone abroad to gather data on the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

"All these 15 years, nobody really catalogued anything," he said, referring to the paintings.

Because of the additional documents provided to the PCGG, the agency was able to obtain more data about the Marcos-acquired art works.

Carranza said that the PCGG would try to get the services of an art consultant to determine how much the missing paintings were worth.

Sarmiento said that it was possible that some of the paintings could be good "fakes." But this was just speculation, he said.

Some of the paintings were found missing in 1998 by the International Foundation for Art Research, Sarmiento said.

Paintings that were found in several sequestered properties of the Marcoses here and abroad have been "lost." Nobody knows who took them.

Several of the missing Grandma Moses paintings were found recently at the Goldenberg guesthouse, one of the so-called "antique" mansions in the Malacañang complex.

As of August this year, the PCGG was just looking for the 23 paintings that they thought had been missing since 1998. But then a second batch of 30 so-called "Old Masters" works owned by the Marcoses and their cronies also turned up missing.

Some of the missing paintings were covered by a failed compromise agreement between the Marcoses and the PCGG under former chair David Castro in 1992.

The agreement would have provided for the transfer of the valuables "from their custodians in the United States (or whoever they may be at present) to the National Museum of the Philippines" in exchange for the Marcoses being granted immunity from criminal and civil suits.

The agreement covered two paintings by Pierre Auguste Renoir, 21 paintings by Grandma Moses and an unspecified number of works by Jan Steen, Pieter Brueghel, Dirk Hals, Robert Street, Henri Matisse and Antonio Moro.

Also covered were the "remainder of paintings taken from the Metropolitan Museum."

Under the compromise agreement, Imelda Marcos was supposed to tell the PCGG where the other paintings were to be found.

The agreement fell through, however, and Imelda never got to tell the PCGG where the art works were.

Aside from her infamous shoe collection, Imelda is known to have collected valuable art works from all over the world which were kept in Malacañang and in the various mansions and buildings that the Marcoses had acquired here and abroad.

PCGG: They're stealing stolen wealth

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government is now facing a new problem regarding the Marcoses' alleged ill-gotten wealth which it had already recovered: it could be stolen anew from under its nose.

This the PCGG realized only recently, with the 17-hectare lot surrendered by Marcos crony Jose Yao Campos, a portion of which was being "leased out" without authority by a firm Gold Park Inc., owned by a certain Emmanuel Zapanta, said to have links to a former Estrada appointee.

According to PCGG commissioner for legal affairs Ruben Carranza, the commission is now thinking of filing a plunder case against Zapanta who had taken control of some 10,000 sq. m. of the government property and had been illegally leasing this out to several business establishments.

Carranza said that the government had lost around P50 million since last year, because the business rentals of the prime lot in Pasig City all went allegedly to Zapanta.

"This person is stealing ill-gotten wealth that was already recovered by the government," Carranza said Wednesday.

Zapanta had also been harassing business tenants in the area who decided to pay their monthly rentals to the PCGG, the commission said.

Starting Saturday, he cut off the water and electricity supply to the area, affecting several restaurants and offices. He even fenced off the area so that business establishments that had contacted the PCGG for help would not be able to open the area for business.

Among the establishments affected were Brothers' Burger, Minggoy's restaurant, Thai in a Box, Office 1, and Gutson's Billiard.

Carranza said that Zapanta had no authority to lease the area to the business establishments there.

"We're finding out a way to stop him from what he is doing," he said.

Zapanta allegedly got the favor with his connections with former Independent Realty Corp. chair Ronaldo Salonga, an appointee of Estrada. IRC, the company surrendered by Campos to the PCGG, originally managed the property.

Zapanta's wife is allegedly Salonga's first cousin.

The prime lot was originally leased by IRC to Patricia Banez for two years, from Sept. 15, 1998 to Sept. 15, 2000.

But Banez sub-leased the property to Gold Park on Sept. 28, 1998 for five years, although its original lease agreement on the lot was just for two years. The lease and sub-lease fee was for P50 per square meter.

Gold Park represented by Zapanta then sub-leased the land to several business establishments for five years, at the rate of P450 per square meter.

Gutsons Billiards and Thai-in-a-Box, are among those who leased the place, both for five years, from April 15, 1999 and July 1, 1999, respectively.

Banez now claims that she had been a victim of "clever manipulation" by Zapanta and Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp., her previous partners in the deal.

She said she was now being harassed by Zapanta and his men.

Part of the area she had originally leased is now known as MC-Depot.

She said she was just "persuaded" to enter into an agreement with Zapanta in 1998.

Human rights bill good news for claimants

By Donna S. Cueto

THE HUMAN rights victims of the Marcos regime may finally get at least $200 million or P10 billion in compensation, once the human rights bill pushed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government is passed into law.

This could be good news for the human rights victims which had been awaiting compensation since they won a class suit against the Marcos estate and got a $2 billion judgment in 1995.

The $200 million will be taken from the $659 million escrow fund representing the Marcoses' frozen Swiss funds which are still abroad.

But the bill would not erase the $2 billion judgment of the 9,539 class plaintiffs against the Marcos estate in the US.

The Marcoses would thus remain liable to pay compensation to the victims.

"This bill will not erase the judgment against the Marcos estate," said lawyer Rod Domingo Jr., one of the counsels of the 9,539 class plaintiffs in the Hawaii court.

"This raises the possibility of double compensation for the victims," he said.

The bill proposes to exempt the $200 million from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, so that if the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court would rule with finality that the escrow funds belonged to the government, the $200 million can be distributed by the government directly to the human rights victims.

So the human rights victims would still have to wait a long time before they would get compensation.

If by Sept. 21, 2002, there is still no final judgment in the forfeiture case (Civil Case 0141) against the Marcoses, the bill proposes the setting aside of P1 billion for "initial compensation, to be taken from any final recovery that may be made by the PCGG."

The PCGG and the Commission on Human Rights will jointly implement the compensation system, and distribute directly the money to the victims, according to PCGG chair Haydee Yorac.

But before this, all human rights victims would still have to be validated as genuine human rights victims by the PCGG and the CHR.

The PCGG and the CHR would set up a "truth commission" with the aid of the National Historical Institute and the University of the Philippines in the work of documentation.

"The proposed bill does not absolve the Marcoses of civil or criminal liability for human rights violations," Yorac said in a letter to Rep. Etta Rosales, chair of the House Committee on Civil, Political and Human Rights.

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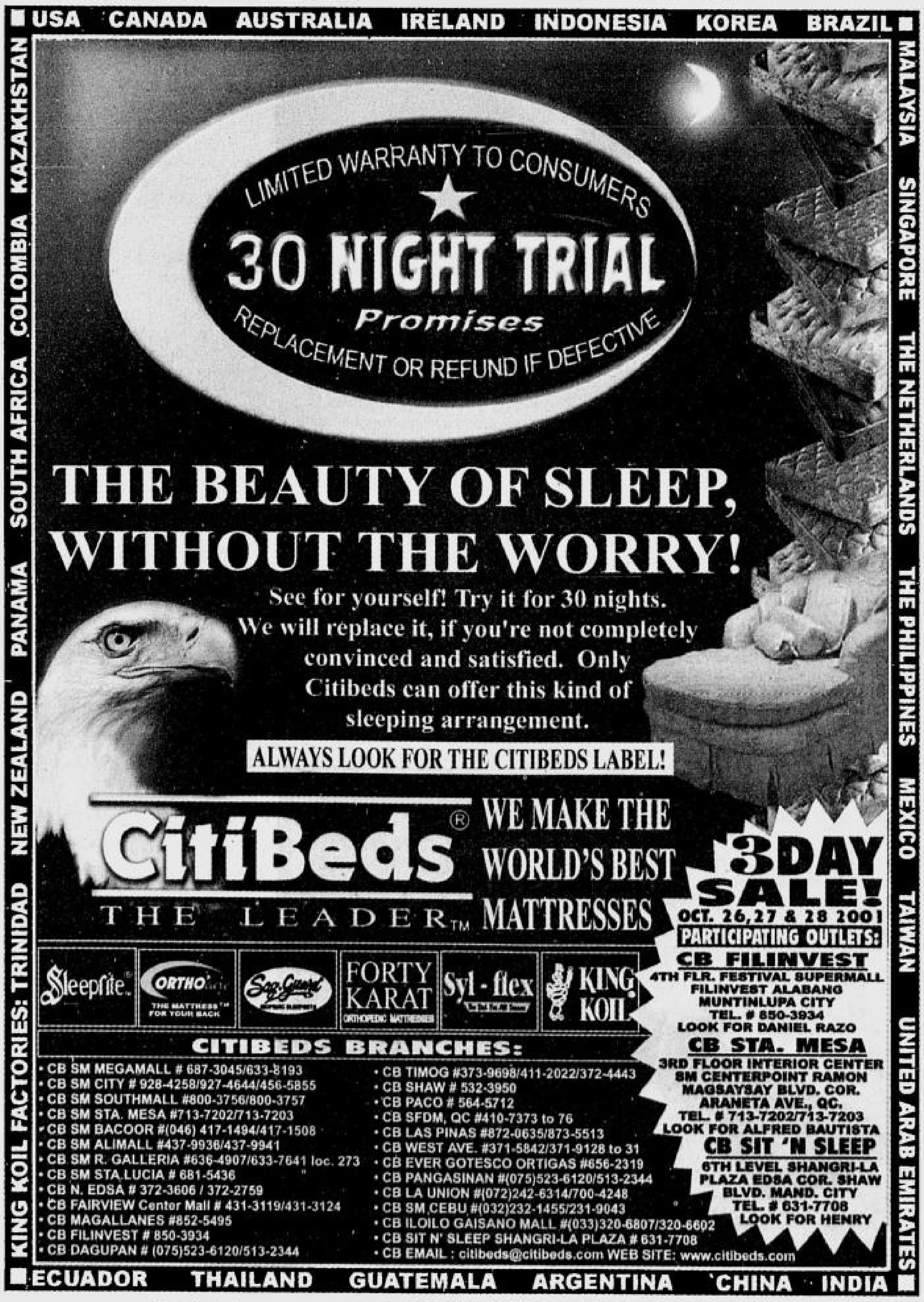
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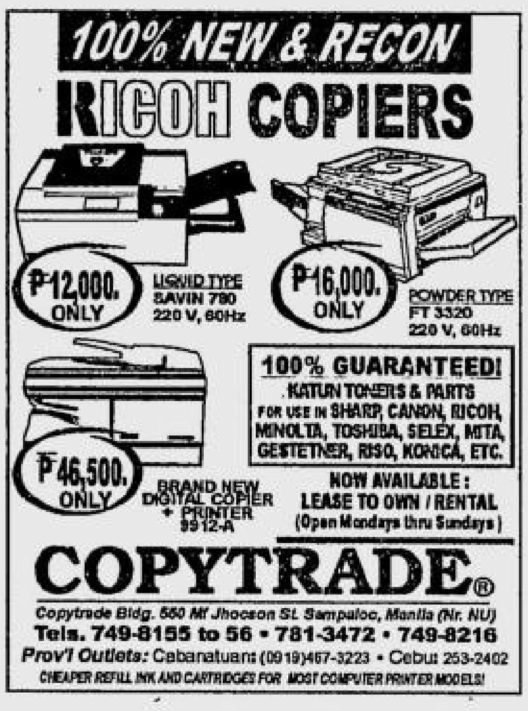
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IMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Graft raps filed vs Comelec chair

By Michael Lim Ubac and Blanche S. Rivera

BENIPAYO

COMELEC chair Alfredo Benipayo has been accused of graft before the Ombudsman' office in connection with alleged irregularities in the disbursement of the poll body's funds.

But Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said he could not immediately act on the criminal complaint as the Comelec chair is considered an impeachable official and is thus immune from prosecution.

Desierto said his office must first establish whether Benipayo, who has yet to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, already enjoys immunity from criminal suit.

Nor does Benipayo's troubles end there. Yesterday he and other commissioners were summoned by the Quezon City court to explain why they junked the contract won by the Photokina consortium for the voter registration and identification system (VRIS).

Photokina has filed a petition for mandamus with temporary restraining order to force the Comelec to honor its contract with the consortium for the P6.5-billion VRIS project.

Benipayo cancelled the bid award certificate that had been given to Photokina and was planning to call for new bids for the project, which has a budget of P1.2 billion.

Quezon City Judge Luisa Quijano-Padilla has set the hearing of the case for 2 p.m. today.

In a complaint-affidavit filed last Wednesday, lawyer Dante Barcebal, a private complainant, accused Benipayo of violating the Anti-Graft Law (Republic Act 3019), for allegedly ordering the purchase of a P1.1-million Toyota Hi-Ace Super Grandia, and illegally reimbursing P17,400 worth of medicines for his personal use.

The medicines had allegedly been requisitioned by "his daughter, Ma. Veronica Benipayo, Executive Assistant V, for his personal use from the Comelec funds."

The complaint also assailed the Comelec chair for attending a seminar in Stockholm, Sweden, allegedly without a formal invitation from the organizers. Benipayo later allegedly charged the expenses amounting to more than half a million pesos to the Comelec.

The complaint asserted that all these allegedly questionable acts of Benipayo were not covered by any resolution of the Comelec en banc, "which is supposedly an indispensable requirement before any such expenditures of funds of the Comelec can be disbursed."

Desierto is being careful not to immediately act on the complaint to avoid encroaching on congressional jurisdiction.

Only Congress can investigate and remove impeachable officials like the president, vice president, the Supreme Court justices and heads of constitutional bodies like the Comelec and the Ombudsman's office.

These officials cannot be charged or investigated by the judiciary or quasi-judicial bodies without first going through an impeachment trial.

Desierto has given the Ombudsman. Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau two days to evaluate the complaint and resolve the legal dilemma.

Desierto said that if Benipayo is deemed not eligible for immunity, the Ombudsman can order the immediate investigation of the complaint.

"Otherwise, he can't be charged. He must first be impeached by Congress," he said.

Also yesterday, hundreds of protesters trooped to the Comelec office yet again to demand a review of the policies governing party list groups.

The Voice of Truth for Electoral Reform and the Citizens Battle against Corruption (Cibac) called for Benipayo's resignation.

The groups also castigated the Comelec for disqualifying Cibac, which landed ninth in the party list race, because of its religious affiliation.

Cibac spokesperson Ian Barcelona said the groups would file a petition before the CA to block Benipayo's appointment.

Agri chief's appointment stalled

WHY has the Commission on Appointments not taken up the appointment of Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor?

Employees of the Department of Agriculture are suspicious that some Malacañang officials have deliberately sat on President Macapagal's letter endorsing Montemayor's confirmation to the appointments' body.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo transmitted Ms Macapagal's letter to the CA as early as Sept. 20. Surprisingly, the commission received the letter only on Oct. 17, nearly a month later, they said.

"That was deliberately done. If its transmittal were only delayed for a week, that would have been understandable. But a month? That's suspicious," one of them said.

The employees declined to identify the officials they suspected of blocking Montemayor's confirmation but said that some presidential advisers were interested in the agriculture department's top post.

Speculations that Montemayor would eventually be replaced had been swirling at the agriculture department for some time. These became even stronger in the wake of the President's recent order transferring the department's key agencies—the National Food Authority and the Philippine Coconut Authority—to the Office of the President.

Montemayor could not be reached for comment. He was in Malacañang in the afternoon to hand the Gawad Saka Agricultural Achievers' awards to outstanding farmers as part of the DA's 103rd anniversary celebration yesterday.

The CA started confirmation proceedings of Cabinet members last week.

So far, only Executive Secretary Romulo, Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman have been confirmed.

Agriculture officials and employees marked their anniversary yesterday without any fanfare. Except for a streamer hung on the façade of the DA building on Elliptical Road in Quezon City, nothing else tells visitors that it was the department's anniversary.

"Since she assumed her post, the President issued an order to government agencies to be austere when celebrating anniversaries," an insider said.

The employees' union, however, sponsored a week-long sports festivities starting last Monday. Today, Montemayor is scheduled to give Gawad Saka awards to outstanding DA employees at the Bureau of Soils and Management. *TJ Burgonio*

Banal, Inquirer Lifestyle ed's pa; 70

COL. Conrado L. Banal Jr. (ret.), father of INQUIRER Lifestyle editor Chelo Banal-Formoso and business columnist Conrado Banal III, died on Wednesday. He was 70.

Colonel Banal began working as a reporter for various Manila newspapers in 1950 before becoming editor of Counterpoint Magazine in 1952. In 1953, he joined the US Embassy as a writer-photographer and worked for the AID, USIS and US Air Force both in Manila and Guam. In 1956, he covered Operation Brotherhood in Vietnam as a photojournalist.

Notwithstanding his talent with the typewriter and the camera, he embarked on a second career in law enforcement in 1958 when he joined the Manila Police Department where he rose to the rank of colonel and was a top aide to Gen. Alfredo S. Lim, then chief of police of Manila. A graduate of the Philippine College of Criminology, Colonel Banal also taught courses at the Philippine National Police Academy in Laguna.

On his retirement from the police force in 1991, he embarked on yet a third career, this time as security consultant to the Gokongwei group of hotels and apartelles in Metro Manila and Cebu.

Aside from Chelo and Conrad, he is survived by his wife of 51 years Jovencia Rojas of Tarlac, other children May, Joel, Kaye, Koy, Gina, Dang and Honey, children-in-law, 24 grandchildren, mother Josefa, brother Jorge, a Quezon City councilor, and sister Menchie Padilla.

His remains lie at Chapel 1, Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Ave., Marikina City, where he will be interred on Sunday, after the 9 a.m. Mass.

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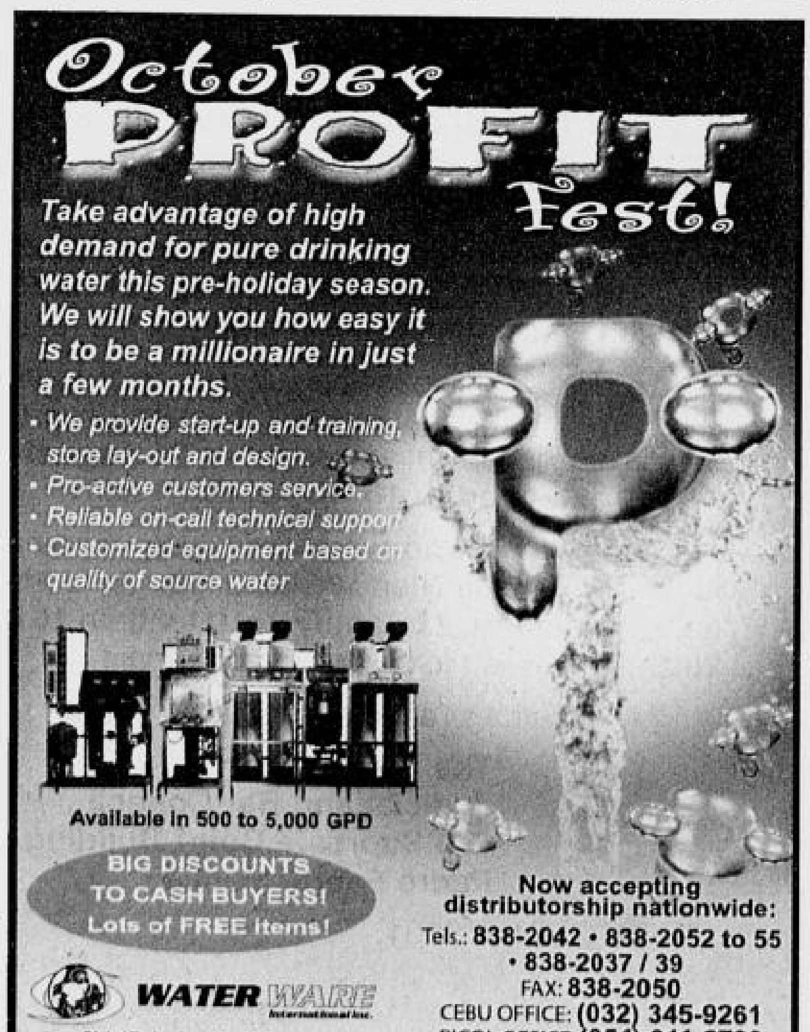

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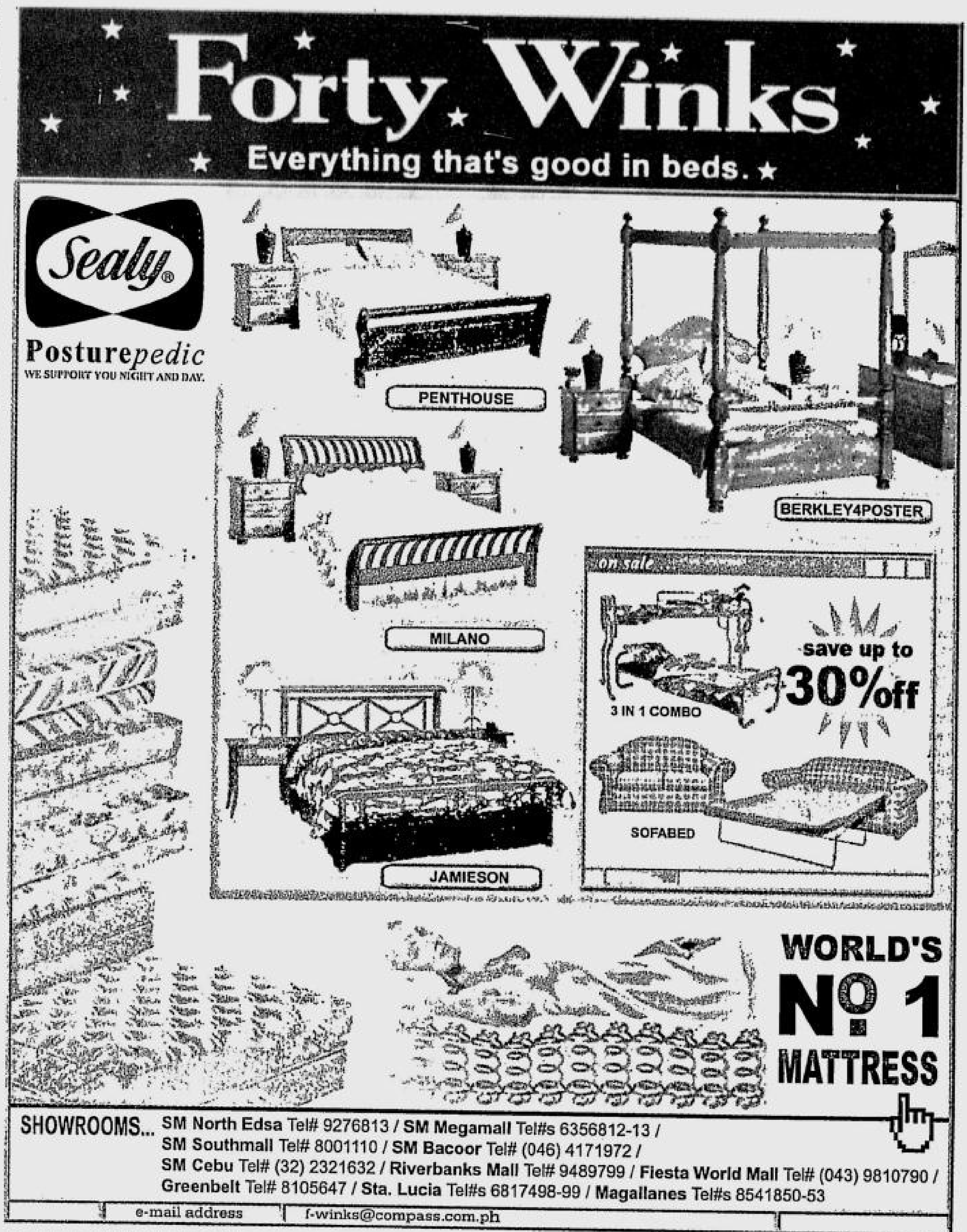

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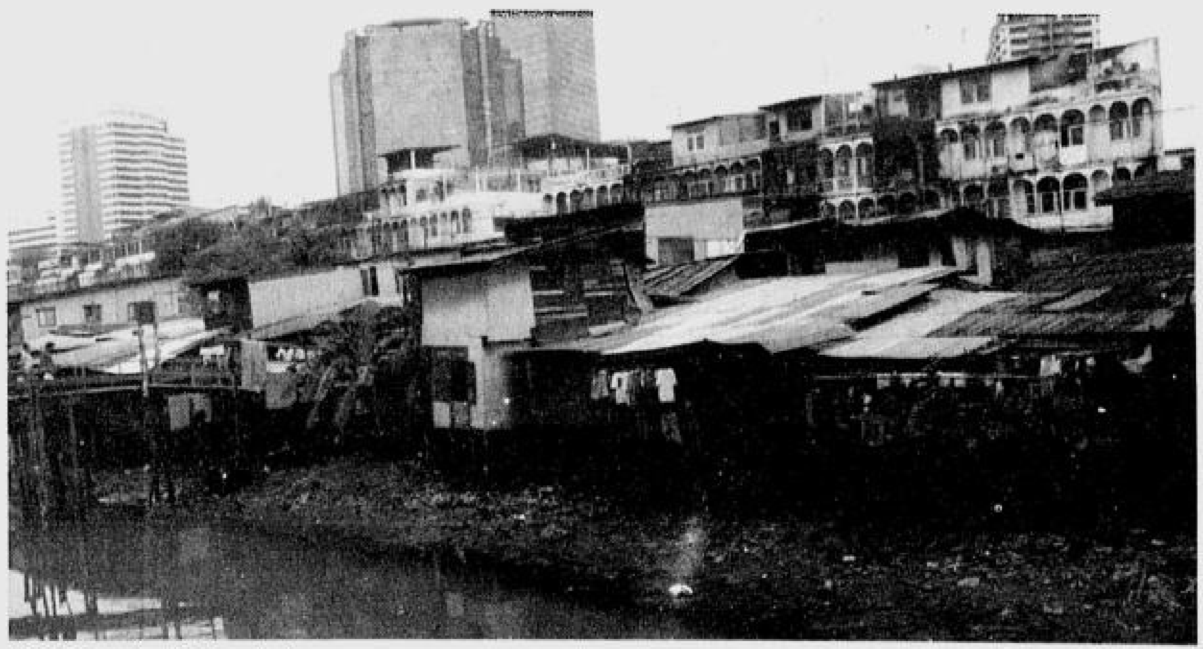
Asia's air may be cleaner, but...

Economic woes continue to wreak havoc on environment



SLUM dwelling in Bangkok.

AP

BANGKOK—Jobs were slashed, the stock market plunged and their currency withered. But many Thais detected a silver lining in the dark economic clouds—fumes from Bangkok's once infernal traffic jams thinned, dust swirls off construction sites vanished.

Elsewhere in Asia, the 1997 financial crisis and ensuing economic downturn were likewise viewed as a boon for the continent's battered environment as polluting factories closed, car sales plummeted and mega-projects were scrapped.

"It offers a time for us to rest and breathe," Ng Cho-nam, president of the Conservancy Association in Hong Kong, said then.

But while major construction is still on hold and Bangkok's air may be cleaner, experts concur the breathing space was short-lived and say Asia's continuing economic woes are proving highly destructive to the environment.

Research by the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and United Nations agencies found almost every Asian government has cut spending for environmental protection and some tend to turn a blind eye to violations of pollution standards, illegal logging and overfishing. Cleaner technologies are not being introduced.

"In times of economic crisis there is a tendency to think: 'Let's get the economy going and the environment can be improved later,'" says M.A. Khan of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Bending the rules

When Taiwanese President Chan Shui-bian earlier this year visited an electronics firm that had failed to meet local environmental standards, he urged authorities to grant it a license anyway.

"I will plead for businesses and would get on my knees if necessary," Chen said.

His remarks came amid an economic downturn and ever louder complaints from businessmen about the island's more stringent standards on factory startups introduced a decade ago. Such controls, Taiwan's government fears, will drive industry to China where regulations are looser.

"We do find that there's a lesser interest in environmental standards," says Howard Shaw of the Singapore Environment Council.

"What they (businessmen) say to us is, 'We're having to cut budgets at the moment.' So they can't commit time and budgets to our programs."

Increased poverty spawned by the 1997 crisis is also having a major impact as growing numbers of rural dwellers are forced to live off the land. More trees are cut and fish caught, wildlife poached and ecologically sensitive areas, like steep hillsides, stripped of trees to expand farm fields.

Hard times in Indonesia

In cities, poorer consumers opt for cheaper refrigerators, heaters and other goods even if these are less environmentally friendly.

Hard times in Indonesia have prompted more fishermen to switch from traditional methods to the destructive, illegal practice of squirting cyanide on coral to stun and capture fish alive for sale to Hong Kong and ethnic Chinese communities in Southeast Asia.

The fish fetch higher local prices while money-strapped enforcement agencies are hard pressed to mount patrols and their staffers are more prone to accept bribes to feed families on meager wages.

"A lot of (environmental) destruction in the Philippines has always been seen as a matter of survival. That has worsened with the slump," says Von Hernandez, spokesman in Manila for the conservation group Greenpeace.

The financial crunch has, for example, prevented drivers of jeepneys—the colorful, noisy diesel minivans that serve as public transport—from tuning engines or taking other simple steps to reduce pollution.

Manila's worsening air

Although Manila's vehicle emission standards are as tough as those in Los Angeles, the government cannot afford monitoring equipment so the law goes unenforced.

Air pollution in general has worsened in Manila despite declining economic activity, and other urban areas of Asia enjoyed only a temporary respite from the economic crisis.

South Korea's Environment Ministry says emission of pollutants such as carbon monoxide and dust particles dropped countrywide to 3.77 million tons in 1998 from the average of 4.4 million tons a year before the crisis. But both oil consumption and pollutant emissions are now back to pre-crisis levels.

Malaysia's most environmentally controversial project—the Bakun Dam on the island of Borneo—stopped when cash dried up during the crisis. But the project, which would flood a tract of rain forest larger than Singapore, was revived in March.

China, meanwhile, has managed to escape a major downturn and encourages domestic spending to keep the economy growing. The country produced 2.07 million cars last year compared to 1.58 million in 1997.

Beijing has raised spending on the environment in recent years, but the Asian Development Bank says the current level—about 1 percent of gross domestic product—must be significantly increased.

It says China faces an array of challenges from flooding caused by deforestation to growth of deserts from overgrazing.

Elsewhere, budgets for the environment have shrunk. After the crisis, per capita spending dropped from $28 to $19 in South Korea, from $5 to $3 in Thailand, from 67 cents to 53 cents in Malaysia and from 36 cents to less than one cent in Indonesia, the bank says. With the threat of a new recession looming, expenditures are unlikely to increase.

Shrunken budgets

Khan, the UN environmental expert, says a number of Asian governments, and even businesses, were just starting to put more money and thought into environmental programs when the 1997 crisis struck.

The much-followed maxim—"Grow now, clean up later"—was being increasingly questioned and the dark side of the Asian economic miracle examined.

The price for unbridled growth has been heavy. Half of the continent's forests have vanished and the average fecal coliform count in Asia's rivers is 50 times higher than UN guidelines. More than 1,000 mammal species are threatened. Some 1,500 varieties of rice have disappeared in Indonesia. Half of Southeast Asia's rich coral reefs are at high risk.

There are no winners. The continent's richest nation, Japan, struggles with mountains of industrial waste and loss of biological diversity. The poorest—Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea—depend on a small natural resource base yet cannot resist overexploitation of forests and other ecosystems for short-term economic gains.

Vanishing forests

In Indonesia, political turmoil and economic tailspin have ensured that illegal logging and air and water pollution increase.

The London-based environmental group Telapak says forests in Sumatra could be gone by 2005 and those in Borneo by 2010. Even national parks are being destroyed.

The devaluation of Thailand's currency, which triggered the 1997 crisis, proved a strong stimulus to agricultural exports, leading to the ruin of more wetlands by destructive shrimp farming.

"It is difficult to see that any substantive progress on environmentally sustainable development will be made until economic and financial stability is restored," says Kristalina Georgieva at the Asian Development Bank.

She notes that Asia's economic and environmental problems have common roots: headlong growth without proper safeguards, unsustainable management practices, lack of openness in government and corruption.

"The critical question for the environment is whether resumed growth will be 'business as usual' or will reflect fundamental reforms in both the economic and environmental spheres," she says. *AP*

69 Pinoys barred from leaving for Saudi

THE PHILIPPINE Overseas Employment Administration yesterday said the 69 Filipinos who had been barred from leaving for Saudi Arabia had claimed that they were merely going to attend Muslim festivities.

A check with Saudi authorities indicated there were no such festivities.

POEA administrator Rosalinda Baldoz said the 69 applicants, all natives of Cotabato City, told the POEA that their primary concern was to participate in festivities there and not to find employment.

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10:00-12:00 IMPLICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF DNA TESTING IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES
Resource Persons: Dr. Corazon de Ungria
Dean Pacifico A. Agabin

1:30-3:00 p.m. THE LIMITS OF INTERPRETATIONS OF MEDICAL EVIDENCE IN CHILD ABUSE CASES
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Announcement

The **Judicial and Bar Council** announces the opening of **the five (5) vacant positions** for the position of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE** of the **COURT OF APPEALS.**

Deadline for the filing of applications/recommendations is on **10 NOVEMBER 2001** (in case of recommendation, the same must bear the conformity of the recommendee).

- The deadline for the submission of applications/recommendations for the two (2) previously published vacancies set on **31 August 2001 is extended to 10 NOVEMBER 2001.**

Applicants who were previously nominated (whose names were submitted to Malacañan on 4 June 2001) but not appointed must **re-apply not later than 10 NOVEMBER 2001** if they wish to be considered again.

Applications/recommendations must be addressed to:

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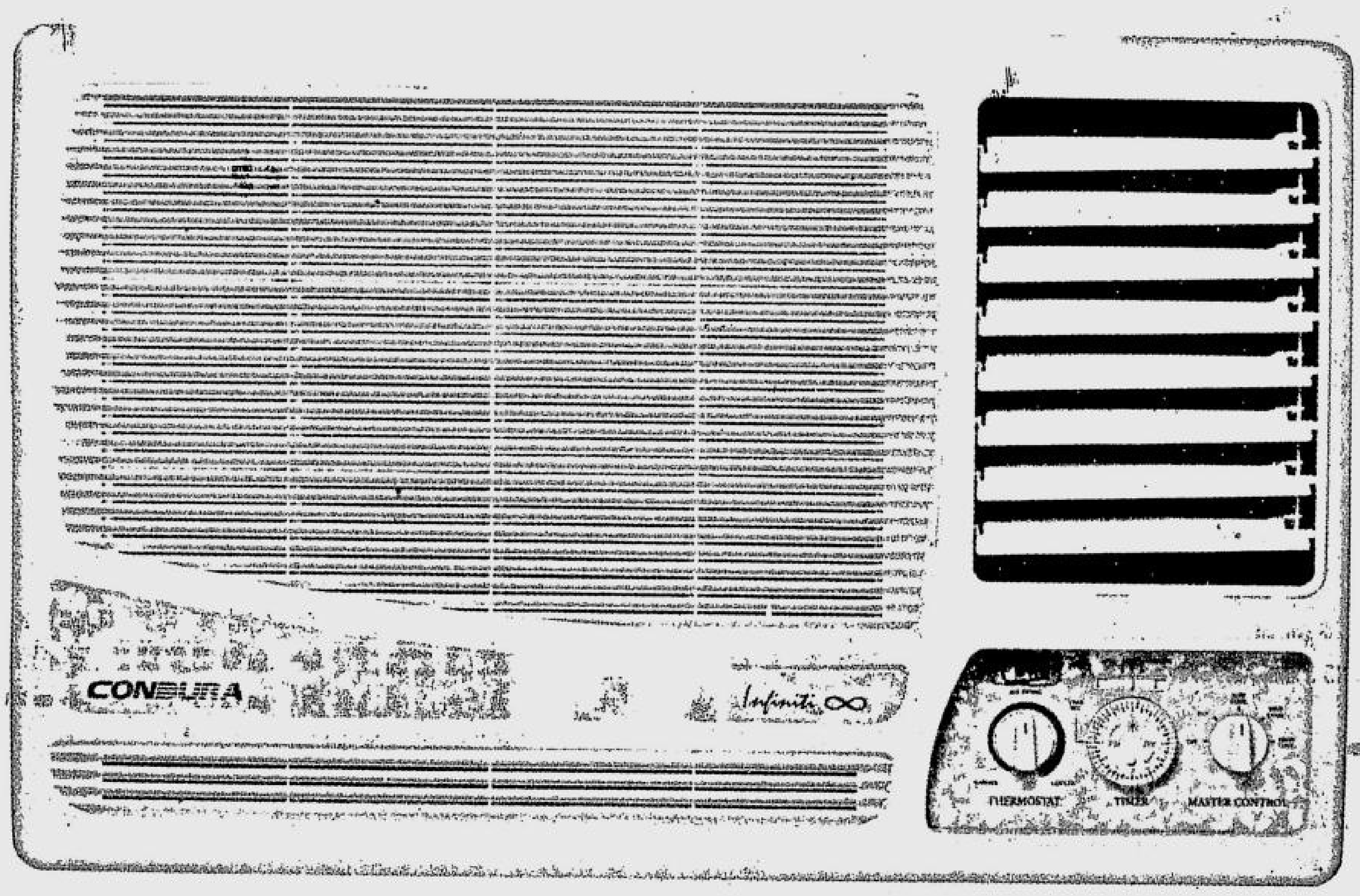

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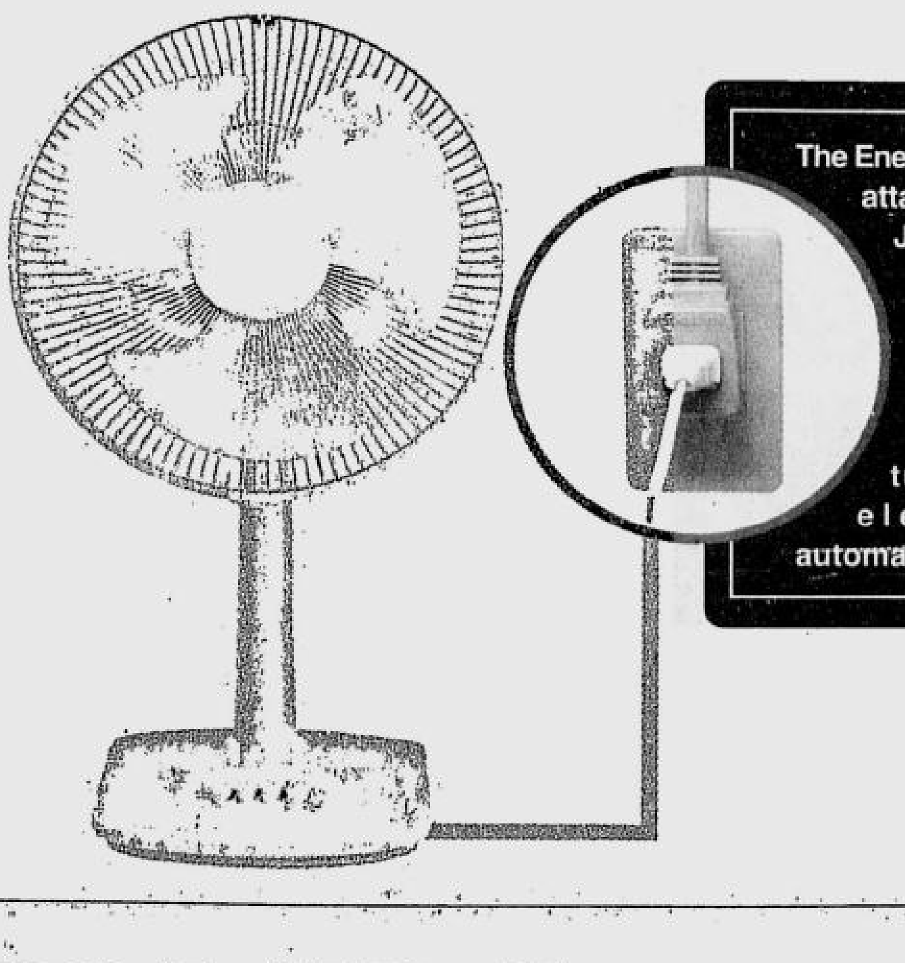

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More US experts coming

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Another 19 United States counter-terrorism experts are heading to this southern city to help the Philippines fight the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang linked to Osama bin Laden, officials said yesterday.

The team, expected before the end of the week, would join a four-man advance party of four who arwe will be giving them some military briefings regarding our concept of operations," against the Abu Sayyaf, Cimatu told reporters.

The Abu Sayyaf is holding a US missionary couple and nine Filipino captives in Basilan island across the strait from Zamboanga.

The Abu Sayyaf are believed to have links with Bin Laden, the world's most wanted man who is accused of having masterminded the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the US.

Another shadowy group of former Moro guerrillas called the Pentagon, is also holding Italian missionary Giuseppe Pierantoni somewhere in Central Mindanao.

After meetings with intelligence and military officials here, the US experts are to fly to Basilan to check on the operations of some 5,000 Filipino troops hunting down the elusive bandit gang.

However, officials have emphasized the counter-terrorism experts would not be joining combat operations.

Cimatu said the US experts "will be assessing our capabilities in terms of equipment and communications, the things we are doing and what we are using in the operation."

The Americans would likely stay in the south for "several days," other Southern Command officials said.

They would also check on the progress of a Philippine "Light Reaction Company," an elite unit that the Americans had earlier trained and which is now operating in Basilan.

If the US experts assess the unit as "effective," they may train additional units and provide funding, Cimatu said.

The Abu Sayyaf's firepower has been degraded following clashes that left at least 60 rebels dead this month alone, he said.

"It is already at the end game, meaning as far as the military component of this operation is concerned, we are almost there," Cimatu said.

He said there was a "very strong probability" that soldiers would rescue the remaining captives "anytime today or tomorrow."

Officials in Camp Aguinaldo said a firefight had erupted between soldiers and the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan's Tuburan town yesterday, although there were no immediate reports of casualties. *AFP*

Zambo media hits tight security

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The ultra-strict security precautions for the visiting United States counter-terrorism experts have been assailed by Filipino journalists who questioned why "the Americans are the ones dictating the rules here."

Prevented from entering the Edwin Andrews Airbase to cover the US team yesterday, they tried to take photos and video shots of the activities in the camp from outside only to be ordered to desist by a ranking Air Force official.

Col. Francisco Gudani, the Southcom deputy chief, said the security preparations were "partly for their (the US team's) protection from being the target of assassination by terrorists or communists."

"This has political security implications," he said.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu denied being dictated to by anyone, stressing that it was merely a matter of US military practice.

He explained that the US does not allow any photos to be taken of military movements inside a military facility.

"I think we also have to respect the US forces," he said.

"We Filipinos are a little bit open, a little more accommodating, but they (the US military) are really strict with media," he said.

As soon as information broke out about the arrival of the US military coordinators yesterday, reporters trooped to the Edwin Andres Airbase to cover the said event.

But they were prevented from entering the said premises. Out of desperation, the journalists took photos and video shots outside the base.

Still, they were shoved out by some Air Force personnel, one of whom was ranking official from the base operations informed the media that even outside the base, "it is still a violation, you don't have the right to take shots of our military equipment from here."

The officer refused to give his name.

The INQUIRER was shoved away from the fence of the EAAB by four fully-armed Air Force personnel while several television reporters were ordered to stop taking footages.

"*Hoy! Paalisin sila diyan, bawal yan,*" an Air Force personnel in civilian clothes said.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu admitted that the security measures were part of the instructions issued to them by the US government.

"I think we have to respect also the US forces. I think it's still part of their instruction from their government," Cimatu told reporters yesterday afternoon.

Col. Francisco Gudani, Southcom's deputy chief for operations, supported Cimatu's explanation saying "it's what the Americans want, we don't understand them also, but we just respect them."

Gudani said the Americans could be "camera-shy," but Cimatu said that it was the practice of the US government, not to allow media to take shots of the military movement inside a military facility.

Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Philippine Judicial Academy

THIRD PRE-JUDICATURE PROGRAM

The Academic Council of the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA) announces that it will hold the *Third Pre-Judicature Program* at the Court of Appeals Auditorium, Centennial Building, Maria Orosa St., Ermita, Manila, from December 3-17, 2001 *for Phase I*, and on January 14-28, 2002, *for Phase II*. Both Phases must be completed by participants.

Satisfactory completion of and compliance with the requirements of the Pre-Judicature Program is required for qualified lawyers aspiring for original appointments to the Judiciary below the Supreme Court, pursuant to Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8557.

Interested parties may contact PHILJA at telephone number 523-6277 or telefax 523-9075 not later than **November 26, 2001.** Those with pending applications for the Third Pre-Judicature Program are also required to pay the registration fee prior to the deadline set. All applicants are subject to an interview.

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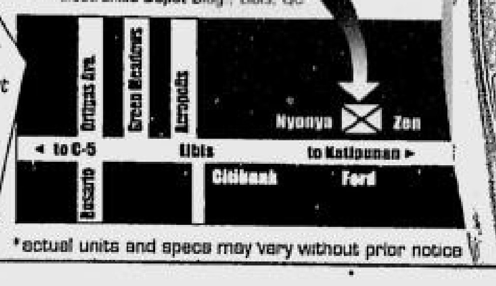

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Petron leads new oil price cutbacks

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

TOP oil refiner Petron Corp. yesterday led yet another round of petroleum price rollbacks, slashing the cost of its gasoline by 30 centavos per liter and of diesel and kerosene by 20 centavos per liter, effective midnight last night.

Flying V, one of the new industry players, said it would cut the price of its gasoline by 35 centavos, diesel by 20 centavos and kerosene by 20 centavos, also effective yesterday.

Citing competitive pressure, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum, Caltex Philippines and new players Eastern Petroleum and TotalFinaElf Philippines said they would match Petron's price cuts.

The earlier-than-expected price rollback is the second this month.

On Oct. 11, oil companies slashed prices by between 21 centavos and 35 centavos per liter citing improved market conditions between August and September.

Petron vice president Antonio Pelayo explained in a press statement that the company usually waited for the third week of the month before allowing pump prices to reflect the previous month's average crude prices and peso-dollar exchange rate.

As of Oct. 24, Dubai crude prices averaged $19.77 per barrel, down by $4.35 from $24.12 in September.

The peso meanwhile averaged P51.70 to the dollar, down by 43 centavos from P51.27 last month.

"Rather than wait for the third week of November, we decided to implement the decrease in our prices early to reflect market forces in a more timely and responsive manner," Pelayo said.

He said that among domestic refiners there is usually a month-long lag before market changes are reflected as it takes that long for inventory to be used up.

"We will align with our competitors on (the new prices) and timing," said Shell vice president Reynaldo Gamboa.

Eastern Petroleum president Fernando Martinez said he had not been expecting the rollback until the first week of November.

"But this will be good for motorists who will be going to the provinces for the holidays," Martinez said.

Petron's Pelayo added that the latest rollback was the first in a series of "phased adjustments" that the firm would implement.

He said the next rollback would be in November.

He said Petron had been studying whether to implement the November rollback on a one-time or staggered basis.

Raul Concepcion, who chairs the private sector Consumer and Oil Price Watch, had predicted a price rollback of about P1.32 per liter.

"This is the first time that we implemented two price cuts within a month," Pelayo noted.

The rollback signals a change in Petron's pricing strategy, he said.

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Nene backs down on VIP plates

SEN. Aquilino Pimentel has backed down from his previous position to ban the use of low-numbered vehicle plates among government officials, from the Vice President down to bureau directors.

The senator now wants to exclude the Vice President, Senate President, Supreme Court Chief Justice and the House Speaker from the ban.

"I realize it is too harsh to include the Vice President, the Senate President, the Chief Justice and the House Speaker. I don't think that would be right," he said.

Another Pimentel proposal for senators to stop calling each other "honorable" during plenary sessions and for guests and witnesses to refrain from addressing the senators with "your honor" during Senate hearings got mostly favorable responses from Senators Manuel Villar, Rodolfo Biazon, Panfilo Lacson, Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda.

Senate President Pro Tempore Villar was the first to "comply" with the Pimentel proposal by reminding guests not to address him as "your honor" in last Wednesday's hearing of the Senate committee on food and agriculture which he chairs.

Villar said he did not mind being addressed by his first name.

Pimentel said the constant use of the word "honorable" by legislators in reference to themselves was beginning to grate in people's ears.

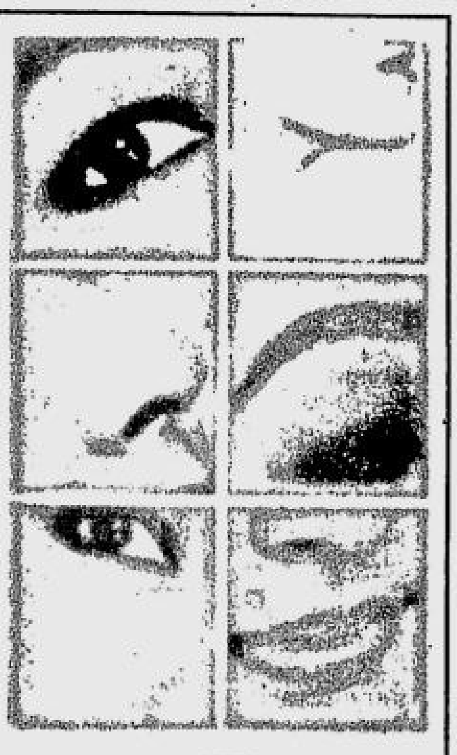
He said the practice was nothing but an exercise in self-flattery that did not in any way enhance the quality of debates or deliberations in Congress.

Pimentel said this tradition of parliamentary courtesy was awkward and unnecessary because members of Congress are understood to be men of honor and respect.

But he himself slipped, addressing one of senators in the plenary on Wednesday with, "yes, your honor."

Cynthia D. Balana

A detailed look at beauty



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No executions until mid-2002

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday ruled out judicial executions in the country before mid-2002 despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to execute up to 95 convicted kidnappers.

Ms Macapagal announced the major policy shift last week, saying the government needed to "strike fear" into the hearts of criminals amid a wave of kidnappings that has shaken business confidence.

Perez said the President had asked him when she announced her new policy how soon can the government execute convicted kidnappers.

"I told the President that I cannot have it carried out until after the year from the finality of the decision," Perez told reporters.

"Under the law the sentence of death should be carried out not less than one year nor more than one and a half year from finality of judgment."

The Supreme Court in August upheld the death penalties handed down by lower courts against kidnappers Roberto Lara and Roderick Licayan. Under the law they must be put to death not earlier than August 2002 and not later than February 2003.

Perez said the Supreme Court is still reviewing the judgment against 93 other people condemned to death by lower courts.

Asked if the delay would diminish the deterrent effect of Ms Macapagal's policy announcement, Perez said the Philippines is a "democracy" and the government was duty bound to uphold legal procedures.

The government executed seven death convicts in 1999—none of them kidnappers—before Ms Macapagal's since—deposed predecessor Joseph Estrada announced a 2000 moratorium amid pressure from leaders of the Roman Catholic Church.

Perez on yesterday downplayed renewed government friction with the Church over capital punishment.

He stressed the death row convicts had gone through the judicial system, and "it does not mean that the President is the one who sentenced them to death."

He added: "The failure of the President to exercise the power to commute a sentence should not be a ground for agitation by the Catholic Church."

The Church was among the key pillars of support for the bloodless popular revolt that toppled Estrada last January and installed then-Vice President Macapagal in his place.

Estrada was arrested for corruption in April, and is on trial for plunder, a crime punishable by death.

Courts have sentenced nearly 2,000 people to death, and there are more than 1,000 convicts on death row. The rest are held in provincial jails.

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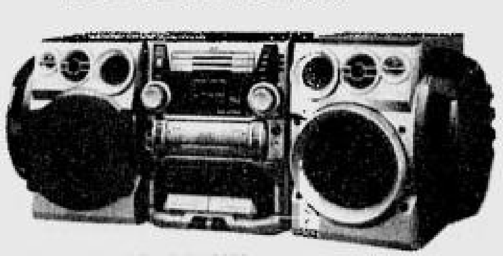

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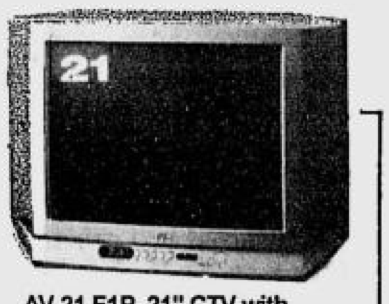

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Slackers

EDITORIAL

FOR MANY lawmakers, making laws is apparently not among their priorities. Make that for **most** lawmakers, because after the opening session of the 12th Congress last July 23, the House of Representatives could not muster a quorum. Not until last Monday, anyway, and House leaders had to take some extraordinary measures to ensure that there were enough warm bodies in the session hall to transact what is probably the most important business before Congress now: the P781-billion national government budget for 2002.

That day the session, which was supposed to open at 10 a.m., actually began at 11:30—but still without the required 108 members to constitute a quorum. It was already mid-afternoon when that number was reached, and as soon as he noticed it, Deputy Speaker for Visayas Raul Gonzalez ordered the sergeant-at-arms to close all exits. Then he told the 140 House members present that no one would be allowed to leave except for "personal reasons."

It was the first time since Congress was reestablished following the 1986 Edsa revolt that the House leadership had to use coercion to ensure that the chamber could get some work done. Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said the House leadership was already thinking of ordering the arrest of members to ensure that enough of them would be around to conduct official business.

The following day, Speaker Jose de Venecia announced other measures that the House might take to force its members to attend the sessions. First, he said he would move for the publication of the attendance record of House members so that their constituents would know how their representatives were performing. Next, he said he would propose corresponding reductions in their salaries and allowances for the absences they incur. And finally he would propose proportionate cuts in their "district allocations" (read: pork barrel funds).

Aren't House members ashamed to have the doors of the House shut so that they wouldn't be able to sneak out like naughty schoolchildren? Don't they feel any responsibility at all to the people whom they are supposed to represent and the taxpayers who pay for their salaries and perks, not to mention the kickbacks they get from their pork barrel projects?

All told, lawmakers are supposed to be working right in their offices in Congress or in the session hall a total of 187 days in a year. They are also supposed to attend only 108 regular sessions. Can't they make time for these obligations and take part in legislative debates and deliberations?

This is a new Congress, and its sessions only commenced in the fourth week of July. So it cannot be that House members are already about to fall from overwork and exhaustion. It's also hard to believe that boredom has already set in so early in their term. Unless, of course, making laws was furthest from their mind when they sought election.

But then legislation no longer seems to be the principal reason for the existence of Congress, as far as some lawmakers are concerned. Consider the Senate and its obsession with televised investigations of anything and everything that will put the senators on camera. Look at the House where the pork barrel in various guises has been institutionalized, vesting lawmakers with the executive power not only to identify projects but also to pick the contractors, for very obvious reasons.

Given their aversion to even just attending sessions, these absentee House members could have served their constituents best by not offering themselves for election. Filipino voters will be doing themselves a big favor by knowing who they are and voting them out of office the next time around.

Example in leadership

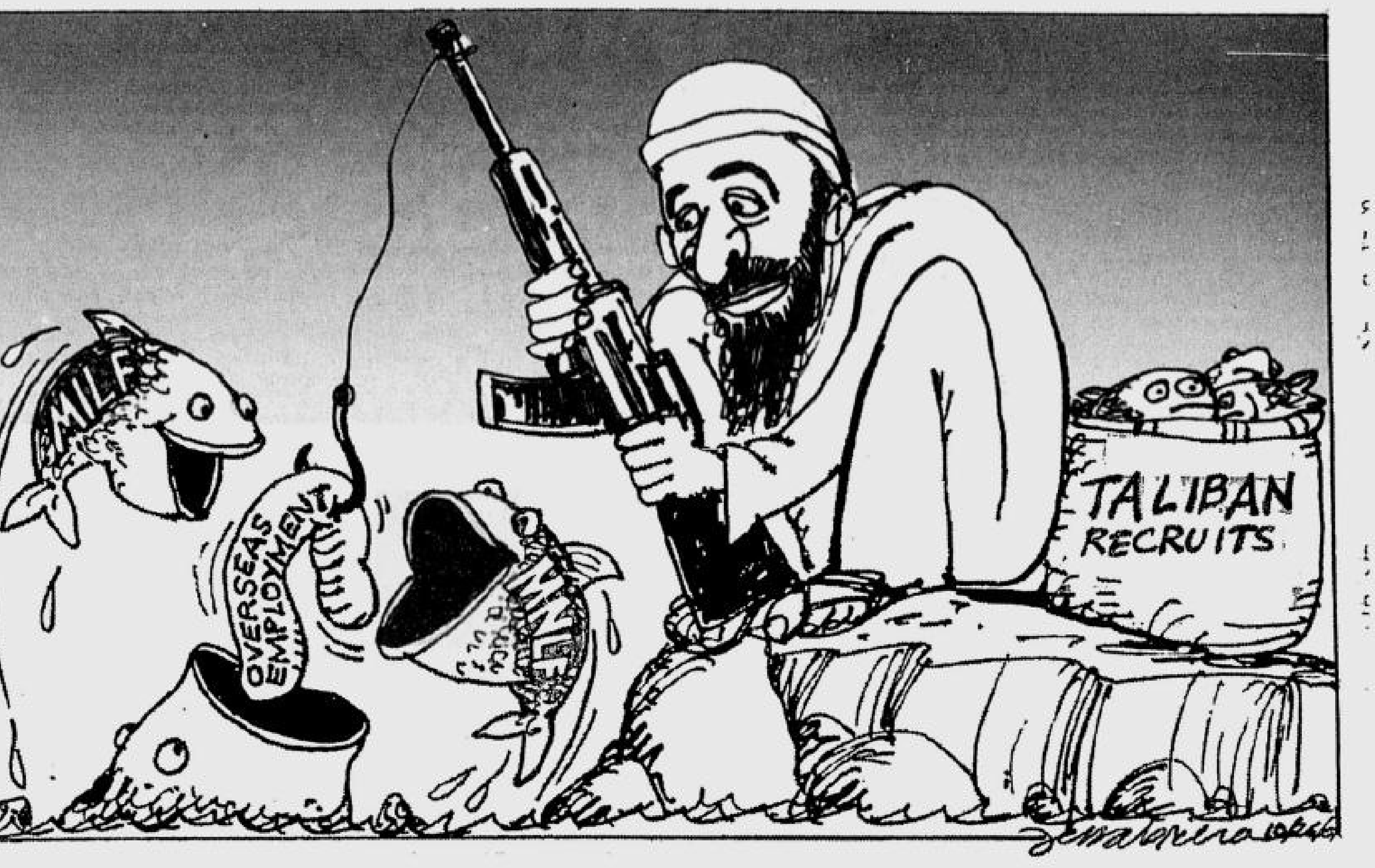
FOREIGN COMMENT

RUDOLPH Giuliani may not be able to serve a third term or even a three-month extension as mayor of New York City, but the British gave him something that should be the envy of every American politician—honorary knighthood.

Giuliani already was a man of great accomplishment. As a federal prosecutor, he put away mobsters and Wall Street sharpies. As mayor, he resuscitated Manhattan, lowered the crime rate and watched tourism flourish. As a man, he overcame prostate cancer and a very public divorce.

But this last month, Giuliani was at his finest. He has led the people of New York to pick up the pieces and carry on. He gave an example in leadership in the face of adversity.

Technically, the honorary knighthood does not carry with it the right to be called Sir, but if any American politician should be called Sir, it is Rudolph Giuliani. *Charleston Gazette (Charleston, West Virginia)*



NPC's Manansala mural up for sale

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ANYBODY want to buy a famous mural by National Artist Vicente Manansala? This is the chance of a lifetime. It is almost impossible that another Manansala mural would be available for sale in the near future.

The board of directors of the National Press Club has finally decided to sell the huge mural on its dining room wall to raise funds to pay off all its debts. Through the years, because of neglect, indifference, mismanagement, incompetence and theft, the NPC has accumulated unpaid electricity, water and phone bills, taxes and unpaid wages to its employees. The biggest chunk is the award given by the National Labor Relations Commission to the NPC Employees Union—although the NPC is contesting the amount (P9 million) as it is allegedly inflated. (There are alleged fake NPC employees in the union list.)

There is still no complete tally of all the NPC debts, but the rough estimate is P20 million. The club will not let the mural go if it cannot erase all its debts with the sale proceeds—plus a little left over for a new mural, this time by cartoonists, to replace Manansala's.

"Why sell it at all if we would still be left with debts?" the board said.

P20 million, in today's deflated pesos, for a Manansala mural is a steal. If I had P20 million, I'd buy it myself. Recently, Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco paid P18 million for an easel painting by National Artist Carlos V. Francisco. The painting is big but it is only a third in size of the Manansala mural. The small paintings sold at auction in Singapore recently, went for the equivalent of millions of pesos for each. In today's fearful world, art is a good hedge against inflation and other economic turmoil.

Some museums have already made offers but the NPC wants to sell the artwork in a public auction. Stay tuned for more details.

* * *

So the NPC dining room won't be left with a bare wall, this corner proposes that a new humorous mural be made through interaction by the nation's top cartoonists, members of the Samahang Kartunista ng Pilipinas. The main subject would be a political rally, covered by print and broadcast journalists, the products of their labors read and viewed by the public. This provides an opportunity for many satiric jokes about a cross-section of Philippine society. To give you an idea of what it would be like, it would be similar to Larry Alcala's "Slice of Life" and Malang's "Menagerie."

The cartoonists' favorite cartoon characters, as well as the caricatures of public figures, will be the main attractions. Malang's Kosme the Cop, for example, can be directing traffic at the street corner and Larry Alcala can be walking through the crowd a la Alfred Hitchcock, while Jess Abrera's caricatures of public officials are gathered on the stage. The characters of early cartoonists, like Kenkoy and Rosing, Lucas Malakas, Pamboy and Osang, should be included as a tribute to these cartoon pioneers. Even Coching's "Kulafu" can be peering down the tree shading the stage, wondering what the noise and confusion is all about.

Among them all, journalists would be working, interviewing people, going through documents, thrusting mikes at the faces of politicians, photographers and cameramen recording everything for posterity, then rushing to their newsrooms to beat the deadline. There, editors and technicians will edit their work, until they come out of the printing press, and watched and listened to in the newscasts broadcast to homes and public places.

It would be fun to make such a mural. Jokes would still be coming in even while the cartoon characters are being painted in. Signatures of the cartoonists will snake all around the mural like a frame.

That mural will be a tribute not only to the working press but also to the nation's cartoonists.

* * *

By the way, the NPC bar and restaurant will be operated by the Makati Skyline beginning Oct. 29. The operator will bring in its own employees but the old NPC favorites will be on the menu along with the Makati Skyline's own favorites. The restaurant will be open to the public but card-bearing members will get a discount. However, no credit will be extended to anybody. That was the cause of the downfall of the old NPC restaurant. You will now have to pay as you eat and drink.

* * *

The NVM Gonzalez Foundation is now accepting art donations to the art raffle scheduled in early December. Prolific artist Manny Baldemor is the first donor, followed by 16 cartoonists of the SKP.

Tickets for the raffle are not even printed yet but there are already buyers for all 100 tickets. Each ticket costs P5,000 but the holder will surely go home with an artwork. It could be an oil painting, watercolor, pastel, pen-and-ink, charcoal, print, cartoon, photograph, sculpture, ceramic. You can win a painting worth hundreds of thousands of pesos or a charcoal sketch that costs P10,000. For P5,000, you'll surely get more than your money's worth. The art pieces are given away cheap because they are donated by the artists.

Proceeds of the raffle will be used as prizes for the NVM Gonzalez Short Story Award and for the publication of a quarterly magazine for short stories and an annual anthology, all in honor of the late National Artist.

Defending civilization

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW a very interesting clip on BBC last weekend. It featured America's involvement in the Vietnam War and the social upheavals that followed in its wake. It gives a good historical context from which to view the events of today, and encourages us to take the longer view.

In 1965, when Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his stirring speech committing America to send troops to Vietnam to defend democracy from its direst threat, which was communism, America was still a country where patriotism was a hallowed word. Invoking it brought tears to the eyes and fire to the heart. A couple of years later, that wasn't true anymore. A whole generation felt alienated by a war they couldn't understand, and the stirring echoes of flag and country faded before a haze of twisted bodies and mangled minds.

That was the start of the antiwar protest, which turned into a veritable conflagration the following year, 1968, sweeping through the campuses of America and the rest of the world. The rhetoric of defending democracy and containing communism around the globe lost its luster completely, little helped in the United States by the sight of American boys wrapped in body bags. By the early 1970s, it was clear that the Vietnam War could no longer be won, that war being waged as much in the streets of America as it was in the jungles of Southeast Asia. When it finally ended a few years later, no one was really surprised about how it turned out.

There are of course monumental differences between the Vietnam War and the war that is raging in Afghanistan. The most patent is that the Vietnam War wasn't provoked at all, while the current war is the product of a terrorist attack on the American heartland. Among its myriad implications is that the patriotic fervor that has swept through America isn't likely to be as short-lived as the one that clung to America in the heart of the Cold War. The rubble that was once the World Trade Center will haunt America for a long time, and will offer hawks a platform from which to try to drown antiwar sentiments.

Just as well, the Vietnam War had little support from the rest of the world, except from organizations like Nato and Seato, whereas America's war on Afghanistan has drawn the support of a coalition of countries. How long it will last, we do not know. Though Apec may have shown the shape of things to come when it refused to endorse the American military campaign in Afghanistan even while endorsing the need for a global campaign against terrorism. But George Bush will certainly not be dismayed by it and will continue to squeeze every last ounce of moral authority from the coalition that he can get.

And, finally, Johnson fought a war against a determined and sophisticated enemy, while Bush is fighting a war against a determined but primitive one. There is no likelihood America will lose the battle against Afghanistan, even if there is every likelihood America will lose the war against terrorism if it continues to wage it in this way. Bush's and Blair's periodic reports about the victorious march of the campaign would be funny if they were not also tragic: it is a victorious march against an enemy that isn't shooting back. No, America won't lose against Afghanistan.

But for all these differences, I suspect a similar protest movement will arise from the loins of America eventually, as the folly of its particular response to the terrorist attack on New York becomes more patent. It isn't the body bags that will do it, or more terrorist attacks, or the threat of them. It is not fear that will do it, but basic American decency. The same decency that drove Mark Twain and other Americans to oppose America's colonial venture in the past, the same decency that drove the antiwar protesters of the 1960s to oppose America's incursions into Vietnam. Both protests drew their power from patriotism too, the kind that harked back to the principles the founding fathers of America articulated when they carved a bastion of freedom from the wilderness.

I have an abiding trust in the American capacity to discover or recover its moral moorings. George Bush has been saying all along that what is at stake today is nothing less than civilization. "In our world," he told Apec only recently, "there is no isolation from evil; this is a fight to save civilization." That is true, but so in ways he has not begun to contemplate. This is a fight to save civilization, but the two camps that will arise to defend or annihilate it won't be the Northern Alliance and the Taliban, the men who rain death on Afghanistan and the men who vow death on them. They will be the camp that attacks the roots of terrorism and the camp that seeks to obfuscate them. They will be the camp that would destroy terrorism with the force of reason, and the camp that would destroy it with the force of terror.

The antiwar movement was the US-led coalition in the past that drew far more willing recruits, and far more lastingly. And in the end, with far better results. People tend to look at the Vietnam War as the war America lost, but I don't know that there isn't another way to look at it. I should think it is the war the peace movement, which Americans themselves started, won. The victory wasn't just symbolic. The Vietnam War was expressly fought to save democracy from communism, enlightenment from benightedness, civilization from barbarism. That was the war the peace movement stopped after questioning those very premises. Years later, communism collapsed without a shot being fired, as much from its own weight as from peaceful demonstrations to its conscripts of a better world.

The lesson remains. Ideas do not die by smart bombs, they die by other ideas. Terrorism isn't stopped by the ways of war, it is stopped by the ways of peace.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

No favorable grounds for coup rumors

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

RUMORS on alleged coup plots have rattled the Macapagal administration and the currency market. The rumors were serious enough to force President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to discuss them with Cabinet members, and drove the peso exchange rate to P52 to the US dollar in last Wednesday's currency trading. The jitters were felt in the securities market, where the benchmark index fell to a 10-year low.

Rumors about destabilization plots, whose sources cannot be established, are best ignored. Regardless of their origins, however, the rumors took a life of their own when no less than the President and the Cabinet dignified the reports by discussing them in their meetings—whether it was an executive session does not matter—and when Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez acknowledged they had received military intelligence and police reports of suspicious movements of people associated with the past administration recruiting soldiers to join the enterprise.

Director Reynaldo Berroya of the Philippine National Police Central Luzon command, has claimed that Sen. Panfilo Lacson is the ringleader of an opposition plot to stage mass actions, using the El Shaddai prayer rallies between Oct. 30 and Nov. 4, as the base for triggering another people power demonstration in what is called "Oplan Black October." Since Berroya is an archenemy of Lacson, reports coming from him are suspect. Perez talks of plans to create "commotion" and attempts on the life of administration officials.

The opposition's Crispin Remulla says Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes stands to gain from any turbulence, implying a military conspiracy to depose the President and set up a civil-military junta.

Given its access to intelligence reports, the administration is exhibiting nervousness and is taking security precautions that it would not be caught off balance the way it was on May 1, when mobs incited by the opposition stormed Malacañang. That attack burned the hands of the presidential security badly, and it is possible that the administration's nervousness and apparent overreaction to the rumors are signs of trauma from the attack. This nervousness could also be a symptom of insecurity on the part of the administration, which has come under a barrage of attacks linking Mike Arroyo, the President's husband, to alleged use of sweepstakes funds to finance the election campaign of four senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition.

My own information, also based on intelligence reports, is that meetings have been held in Puerto Azul among some opposition leaders and military and police officers identified with the May 1 rebellion, and, indeed, officers have been approached to join the plot.

The best way for the public to sort out these rumors is to ask: (1) Who will benefit from a coup? (2) What group has the capacity to mount a coup? and (3) Are elements in place that would favor or ignite a coup?

From where I stand, any coup at this time is dead in the water. The government is not gripped in a political crisis marked by widespread unrest in the streets. The military chain of command is solidly behind the government. There is no profound issue or event that can serve as a catalyst for mass action that can trigger a coup or military defection. Lacson or PNP officers loyal to him do not have the force to stage a coup. Lacson loyalists have been marginalized and isolated following the abolition of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, his center of power.

The military has no powerful or compelling reason to depose President Macapagal. There is no popular mobilizing issue against her to send people to the streets in wave upon wave of demonstrations. A mobilizing issue against the government is an important element in a coup. During the Estrada administration, the mobilizing issue was corruption and incompetence. This issue found incendiary expression in the impeachment trial of former President Estrada. The unrest forced the military leadership to think very hard over the issue of the political and economic consequences of the retention of Estrada in the face of people power demonstrations.

From available evidence, one cannot see the reconstruction of the Edsa II scenario and that of the May 1 rebellion. The issue of corruption is being raised using whistle-blowers, but this effort is not taking off or creating widespread public unrest. In Edsa II, retired generals and officers campaigned in military camps to enlist support for the Estrada resignation movement. In the run-up to the May 1 rebellion, attempts were made to recruit troops to support the move to overthrow the newly installed Macapagal administration.

The recruitment in May failed. The military leadership, which had decided to withdraw support from Estrada, has a stake in the Macapagal administration. It was the military defection that was pivotal to the collapse of the Estrada administration, although it should be made clear that the military chain of command decided in response to the events stemming from the abortion of the impeachment trial and was sensitive to the pulse of the people streaming out into the streets after the Senate had voted 11-10 to suppress evidence in the trial.

The military has to find a compelling reason to depose President Macapagal. While it has a history of several coup attempts, from the Marcos administration to the Aquino administration, the military now has a unified chain of command. Its main interest is to maintain political stability. In Edsa I, the military was fractured and divided. The chain of command was in tatters. The chain is intact now. The military is in no mood for adventurism, especially when the country is not in the throes of a constitutional crisis.

Scenarios of Edsa I or II cannot be replicated and produce the same outcome. Coup rumors will dissipate if it is realized the favorable environment for a power grab does not exit.

Deflating the anthrax scare

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"IN CIPRO we trust" is how a famous American TV newscaster now closes his shows. And for good reason. American media personalities are now the leading targets for "anthrax terrorists," along with American politicians, while postal employees count among the collateral damage.

With the number of fatalities growing, though slowly, it's no wonder folks are choosing to put their faith in powerful antibiotics, since the postal system and the most extraordinary security measures have proven helpless against minuscule spores and bacteria.

But while the anthrax infestation widens in coverage in the United States, back here, the borders of the anthrax scare have begun to narrow. After the initial fears of "bio-terrorism" sowed panic in the wake of a mini flu outbreak in upscale private schools and of a subsequently debunked "anthrax in the mail" story, the hype has subsided considerably.

Government's response—acknowledging people's fears while countering these with information and timely responses—contributed a lot to calming the situation. Although in the initial stages, some officials' statements tended to inspire nervousness rather than confidence. The Department of Health, though, has responded admirably. It sought to counter speculation and alarm with facts and reassurances, while taking care not to dismiss the complaints of itching and breathing difficulties outright.

I happened to be a guest at a recent "Strictly Politics" segment over ANC-Channel 21 that focused on the anthrax "scare," and was greatly impressed with the representatives from the DOH. Dr. Betsy Miranda, of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, who also sits in the recently formed bio-terrorism task force, was particularly impressive. She stuck to the facts and scientifically verified evidence, but took care to communicate clearly with the audience.

To restore public equanimity, authorities need only inspire confidence in their ability to deal with threats to public safety. And this holds true whether for anthrax or kidnapping.

* * *

BUT certainly a major factor in the scaling down of the growing anthrax hysteria was that media rapidly tired of, or distanced themselves from, the story.

Perhaps it was a mixed blessing that the early reports of so-called outbreaks were whipped up with so much frenzy and flopped so spectacularly. If the story had grown only incrementally, perhaps even more letters than the 140-plus packages that have been sent so far, would be finding their way to the RITM.

Before the show, Dr. Miranda told us that indeed some of the packages, which ranged from single envelopes to bunches of about 200 letters, contained or were dusted with some form of powder. But none turned out to contain anthrax spores. Indeed, public scares tend to inspire mischief-makers, who for one reason or another want to scare recipients out of their wits.

The majority of the envelopes sent to the RITM, though, were those containing promotional material from the magazine "The Economist." This only proves the power of the media, for it was a TV news show that first floated the possibility that these envelopes, imprinted with the names of world leaders and celebrities along with recipients, could be laced with anthrax.

Actually, I feel sorry for "The Economist" and its promotions arm. Who was to know that a marketing gimmick would turn out to be such an embarrassment? Bad timing, but without the media hype, people may still be receiving the envelopes without hyperventilating.

* * *

THINGS are dicey enough, with economic jitters adding to the imaginings about terrorists in our midst who might want to do unto Filipinos what they did to Americans, without loose talk and media sensationalism adding to the volatile brew.

Is it a national death wish or, as some commentators have suggested, an extreme form of colonial mentality? Is it possible that if thousands of Americans are killed in a terrorist attack, and many more are under threat of anthrax, we Filipinos will not rest easy until we, too share their fate? Better to be dead and/or scared, than ignored and sidelined?

Nobody's saying that we ignore the anthrax scare. Those postal workers, mailroom clerks and assistants in Florida, New York and Washington, D.C. are real enough and so were the anthrax spores in their nasal passages and lungs. But a basic question everyone must ask himself, before falling headlong into the hysteria, is "Who am I, and for whom do I work, that I could be a target of terrorists or pranksters?" Answer that question in the positive, and you might have good reason to say "In Cipro I trust."

* * *

MEANTIME, there are ways to counter anthrax, as experts remind us.

The simplest and most convenient way to battle mailed-in anthrax, confirms Dr. Miranda, is to subject the suspected letter or package to extreme heat, such as an iron. "But you would have to almost sear the paper," she reminds. And yes, ultra-violet light, as some institutions have begun using in their mailrooms, will be able to kill any organisms in the mail.

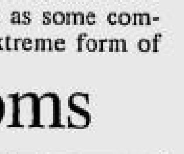
And if you suspect that your skin has come in contact with the bacteria, all you need to do is to stand under a hot shower for some 15-20 minutes, and use a strong disinfectant which should be enough to kill any anthrax spores. Then there's any number of antibiotics you can take if you think the bacteria have entered your system.

I don't see anything wrong, either with consulting a doctor as early as you can if you have grounds for suspecting you may have succumbed to an anthrax attack.

Still, the chances of an ordinary Filipino receiving a package in the mail dusted with anthrax spores is about as remote as a personal visit from Osama bin Laden. We may yet die of many other causes before lab-produced anthrax compromises our health. Stress and hypertension, if not paranoia, could kill us long before those letter "bombs" land in our doorsteps.

Secret rooms

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

KARA David's recent television report on the kidnappers' lair raided by the police in Quezon City was very interesting. She showed viewers all the secret passages inside, proving that she has a nose for news and a different way of seeing things. Her reportage reminded me of my own brand of nosiness when I was her age. As she brought her viewers inside the hidden rooms and secret passages, I noticed that whoever owned the house did not make it cozy and comfortable. Furniture was sparse, very few personal belongings were around, there seemed to be no air-conditioning and the walls formed a plywood maze.

David started the report by emerging from a staircase hidden under the floor. She then showed people a cabinet that swung open to reveal yet another secret room. There was even a dark room that allowed the criminals a great view of the gate without being seen outside. As David walked in and through the house, taking her viewers with her, I realized that if the police were quick or smart enough to even get inside, it would take time for them to make sense of the place allowing some, if not all, of the criminals to escape. David's report reminded me of the similar secret passages in Emilio Aguinaldo's house in Kawit, Cavite and the first time I went through these close to 20 years ago.

Aguinaldo may not be history's favorite hero, but I think he had the best revenge, the last laugh, simply by living long and well. It must be a wonderful feeling to outlive all your enemies and detractors. Perhaps Aguinaldo survived all attempts on his life by watching his back and keeping his ear to the ground (literally and figuratively). But superstitious folk credit Aguinaldo's longevity on an *anting-anting*, even a friendly *kapre* that supposedly lives in the ancient mango trees that surround his home. I will not repeat those fairytales here even if this is my Halloween column.

Aguinaldo's house in Kawit is the more affluent version of the Quezon City kidnappers' house. As you ascend the staircase of the Aguinaldo shrine, you will see a hat rack and a cabinet that also swings open to reveal a hidden passage into Aguinaldo's bedroom. There are, aside from the windows, two doors that provide discreet entrance and exit from the bedroom. If cornered, part of the floor near the bathroom opens to reveal a staircase to his basement swimming pool. Furthermore, there is a gallery outside his bedroom where the Veterans of the Revolution met on long narra benches that doubled as storage of arms and ammunition. These benches could comfortably hide one or two people.

There is much more. When the heavy granite kitchen table is pushed to the side, you can go down a tunnel to the basement that people think is a bomb shelter. When I first visited the house, this tunnel was not yet sealed off and I was told it led to the Kawit town church or cemetery. I was too scared to actually see where it would end up. Then the distinctive feature of the Aguinaldo house, the watch tower—*mirador* in Spanish, *tanawan* in Tagalog—where, on a clear day, one could see the Manila skyline or approaching enemies. There are a number of little rooms in the tower and one opens to a ledge that gave Aguinaldo a peek into the bedrooms of his daughters.

Of course, Aguinaldo's house was not the sprawling mansion it is today. It was a normal *bahay na bato* that grew over the years. I'd like to think that Aguinaldo's penchant for secret passageways grew from his short stay in Biak-na-Bato in Bulacan. On the map, the site of the Biak-na-Bato Republic is so close to Manila, yet if you go there today you will see that even if the enemy penetrated their defenses, Aguinaldo could play hide and seek in a labyrinth of caves and underground streams. The Kawit house is like the Biak-na-Bato, a place of safety and refuge.

If Aguinaldo stayed alive by his wits, Jose Rizal was the opposite. He had precognitive gifts (which I think he used to win the second prize in the lotto and get good grades in exams) yet he died young. Of the dreams he left us in his letters and diaries, most scary is the one filled with snakes and another with dead people. However, the most striking reads:

"Night. I'm very sad. I do not know what vague melancholy, what indefinable loneliness stifles the soul...I had a frightful nightmare when I almost died. I dreamed that imitating an actor in a scene in which he dies, I felt vividly that my breath was failing and I was rapidly losing strength. Then my vision became dim and dense darkness like that of nothingness overpowered me: the anguish of death. I wanted to shout and ask help from Antonio Paterno, feeling that I was about to die. I awoke weak and breathless."

Written after New Year's Eve 1883, I thought it was just a bad case of indigestion. Maybe he ate or drank too much and had *bangungut*, but the timing is uncanny. If Rizal was awake till dawn of the 31st then the above dream must have occurred on Dec. 30, 1882 exactly 14 years to his execution at the Luneta! Seen in this context, the reader can imagine what Rizal felt as the bullets ripped through his body and snuffed the life out of him. Could this be his "Twilight Zone"? If only our heroes wrote more, then we would know how they dealt with premonitions of death.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Confession of a retiree

A MONTH ago I reached the age of 61. I retired after 35 years in government service. I could not wait until I turned 65. I felt that it was time to go. Some friends told me that it was not the sensible thing to do. Since I belong to a group of officials receiving a six-digit annual salary, it seemed quite impractical that I retired this early especially because I did not have definite plans after I retired.

HIGH BLOOD

Magnolia

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

So, why did I retire? I will till you. But since I don't want anyone to get hurt by what I think and the things I am about to say, I've decided to use a pen name.

I retired because I believe that I have reached the plateau of diminishing returns. In layman's language, I was being paid more than what I can deliver. I know that there are people like me who think this way but are afraid to accept the truth.

Many people have a negative picture of government workers and this fact used to hurt me. Even my children, when they were still young, used to ask this question: "What is that person doing...walking around, *wala bang ginagawa*?" Some people say: "*Ang trabaho sa gobyerno, parang bakasyon lang*" and "*Talagang ganyan sa gobyerno, eh.*"

I get irritated by those comments but there is more than a grain of truth in what they say. Thus, later last year I found myself looking at what I have done the past years as a government employee. I asked myself the following questions:

At the end of the day, could I say that I deserve the pay I am getting?

With the contribution I made to the agency, was I the only one who could deliver the goods?

Was I able to contribute ideas which made the government more effective or efficient?

If I retire, what will I do? What can I do? Can I afford to retire?

I tried to answer these questions as objectively as possible and realized that sometimes I haven't done much and it makes me ashamed to feel that I'm not as useful as before.

But I am not indispensable. I was thinking that if I leave, my position can be slashed (the government calls this attrition) or replaced. Service, hopefully, will not be affected.

I have some good ideas, if I may say so myself. And even if I decided not to leave, they would not be implemented anyway. In the government there can be many good inputs but the chance to implement them is slim. And there is no money for untried innovations. Sometimes a person needs "connections" even to pursue a service, an experiment, a project. And because of this, I am what new folks call an NPA (non-performing asset).

I was thinking, if I retire...what will or can I do? Well, at least I can take time to smell the flowers which I couldn't do because of my hectic schedule (I work from 8 to 5). Also, I might be able to finally write a novel and help in our community, etc.

Can I already afford to retire? Fortunately, my children are all employed. They know how to "fish," so to speak. What about my personal needs? *Mababaw ang kaligayahan ko.* Just give me the opportunity to read the INQUIRER over a cup of coffee every morning, a few books now and then, at least three full meals a day (I cannot even eat a lot, I have high blood pressure) and let me entertain a few friends...well, I know I'll be okay.

After pondering on these, I decided to retire. I figured that retiring would be doing something positive for the government. I told myself that anyway, I'll be replaced by another person with better ideas and thus better service. Or if the agency I work for won't be able to find a replacement, this would mean additional savings for the government. I wish...

But I will miss getting a million pesos in four years. Well, I could have stayed but, *kabayan*, now I can sleep well each night knowing that I do not belong to the "driftwood" in government; those leeches who suck up the government's lifeblood each day without giving back a drop. I am not saying this so people could say that I am a self-righteous individual. I believe that there are senior citizens in the government who are still performing assets and must be prevailed upon to stay. But there are also those who are not worthy to be called public servants and therefore should leave government service.

Even if nobody follows me, I believe I have done my good turn for my country.

My husband and I

Remedios A. Ibañez

IT was with amusement that I read Silverio F. Aquino's article titled, "How to make and keep your wife happy" on Sept. 26, 2001.

He said he read somewhere that to make your wife happy you should treat her as "you would a car." But a car when old and worn-out is sold to buy a better one and you don't do that to a wife! The older a wife gets, the better you love her for being faithful to you and giving you children, rearing them to be worthy of your name and loving them because they are yours and hers and because you love each other.

My husband showed he loved me by accompanying me to the market without a car (because we could not afford it), helping me with my grocery bag and buying me an electric fan to refresh me while cooking our meals. It was giving me those little comforts to show he cared.

When he could finally afford a car to bring our children to school, he asked me to ride with him in the car so we can go to the market and do a little shopping which I always did. I also used the car to pay my children's matriculation fees, buy their books in exchange for cheaper ones and other school needs. These made my husband happy because he didn't have to do them himself, being busy with his office obligations.

He made me happy by being helpful in his own unobtrusive ways—by making me and our children's lives easier even without a car, by being thoughtful even without lovingly touching or caressing a lifeless car, and bringing me to the hospital when needed.

He always took me out on dates—dinner or movies—knowing I'd be tired cooking and doing household chores all my life.

He was a wonderful, caring and thoughtful husband of many years, and I miss his loving presence after 63 beautiful years.

Opening his closet, I was so happy in spite of my loss, to find a big album where he posted all the love notes that I wrote for him all our married life, lovingly and without fanfare—a sign that he really loved and treasured me, not as a beautiful wife but as an adoring and affectionate wife who cared for him and his children.

He was ill for a long time, but before he passed away he asked his daughter to always take good care of her mother. Even in his last moments, it was me he was thinking of!

Life is empty without him, but so many memories linger on. I keep the albums I have of our pictures taken together, giving seminars all over the Philippines.

I know that he is peacefully resting—after all his pain and suffering—with the eternal peace of our Lord, for he was a good Christian, a good father and a wonderful husband not only to please me, his wife, his children and God's wonderful world. May his soul rest in God's eternal peace.

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Ruing the loss of cable programs

I PERFECTLY agree with your editorial of Oct. 22, 2001 titled, "Cable consumerism" which excoriated the "three leading cable operators" for their "slipshod" handling of negotiations with Star TV.

The World Series is on and I failed to see my favorite Yankees enter the championship. All I see is an advisory from Sky Cable putting the blame on Star TV for pulling out the premium channels while negotiations were still ongoing. I can only surmise that Star TV would not have resorted to such a drastic move without any valid reason. The "non-payment of millions of dollars (by Sky Cable et al.) of (subscription) fees" to Star TV would certainly be a valid reason.

Sky Cable would like to impress upon its subscribers that its refusal to accommodate the Star TV bundle is in the interest of its subscribers and promises to bring "more basketball, golf and tennis." Just where they intend to get this from, the subscribers haven't the faintest idea. As I have said in my letter pre-terminating my subscription with Sky Cable, without "Star Sports and ESPN (and Star Movies), cable services would mean nothing" for it is precisely these premium channels which entice viewers to switch to cable.

Sky Cable warns that in "a matter of time the other cable operators" may also be pressured to drop these channels.

But I am nonetheless switching to another cable operator.

I have to switch despite the admonition from Sky Cable because in so doing, I wish to convey the message that I do not approve of its decision to "assume" that it is serving the interests of its subscribers by "letting go" of these premium channels. I expect my cable operator to at least give me an option to pay for a higher subscription in return for retaining these channels. This, Sky Cable never did. As a matter of fact, the subscribers were simply informed after the fact that these premium channels would no longer be carried. Your editorial says it best—"these advisories...have all the care and deliberation of an afterthought."—**LUIS ANGEL G. ASEOCHE, 7th Floor, Kalaw-Ledesma Condominium, 17 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City**

It is still incineration

THIS is a reaction to the proposed "bio-mass system" to be adopted by Cavite for the solution of the province's garbage problem.

Accordingly, the waste treatment process through gasification, in which reportedly does not involve burning, would produce four substances such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen and hydrogen for the production of chemicals like acetic acid and ethanol, other than electricity.

This ultra-modern solid waste treatment plant may seem to be a very sophisticated equipment though I can already imagine as to what type of equipment Cavite will use. As far as I understand, the two carbon compounds can be produced only through burning, either by direct fire of waste in furnace or heat via stove or burner, contrary to the American contractor's claim that no burning is involved.

If water is applied to the solid waste, the burning process is more of vaporization or boiling rather than gasification. There are numerous gases released from burning other than the four substances mentioned.

Again it is contrary to the American contractor's claim that no contaminant is released into the atmosphere.

Summarizing the entire setup of the waste treatment process, the first stage is by direct burning (tantamount to incinerating) and the second stage is collecting the gaseous substances probably via the economizer for chemical or electricity production.

As further mentioned, the system charges $12 or P618 per metric ton of waste coming from municipalities, cities or provinces. Isn't this pricing an overkill? The American contractor will profitably earn from the biodegradables to be paid by the local government and non-biodegradables by manufacturers as well as the finished product (chemicals and electricity to be bought by the consuming public) when the system should be partly or wholly self-liquidating under a build-operate-transfer arrangement. The concept is good but requires an extensive and thorough evaluation.—**WINSTON N. KAYANAN, 30 Socorro St., Carmel 3 Subd., Tandang Sora, Quezon City**

Judicial discipline needed

THIS refers to your story "Nervous but boring" (PDI, 10/22/01) about deposed President Joseph Estrada's detention.

It's time for the Supreme Court and all courts to show that corruption does not pay.

And it's also time for our Supreme Court to discipline lawyers who delay the hearing of cases and don't attend the hearing of cases when they are given sufficient notice of the dates of the hearings.—**OSCAR R. LANDICHO, orlandicho@hotmail.com**

LETTERS

PNR negligence in train accidents

THE ARTICLE in the INQUIRER last Oct. 18 titled, "Gloria directs accident rescue," revived the anger and frustration that I felt following the train-bus collision last Sept. 30.

My family has not recovered from our grief after the accident in Pansol, Laguna. Seventeen out of the 36 passengers got hurt, five critically. My niece, a 17-year-old UP freshman, was in a coma for 20 days and her spleen had to be removed due to internal bleeding. It is only now that she is waking up from her coma.

Her classmate, also a 17-year-old female, died from skull fracture. The driver died after one week of struggling to survive.

An inspection of the intersection revealed that there were no bars and warning signs.

The train went straight on to Bicol and did not slow down, which could easily have been done by the train engineer. The mini-bus that the students rode fell into a ditch. The roof and side of the bus got ripped, and many of the passengers were thrown in different directions.

Residents say that train accidents occur there every year. That is just one area.

We demand that the Philippine National Railways improve its facilities and system. Justice should be given to those who are victimized by the PNR's negligence.—**SR. MARY PILAR VERZOSA, RGS, Pro-life Philippines, 2486 Legarda, Sampaloc, Manila**

Final clarification on a clarification

AS A FORMER consultant/spokesperson of the Cultural Center of the Philippines Board under Gloria M. Angara, allow me to point out that CCP director for public relations Irene Rada's letter is full of inaccuracies itself, not the least, her opinions on Philippine jurisprudence.

To begin with, her contention that the present CCP Board led by Balthazar Endriga was elected and subsequently appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is directly contradicted by the Malacañang appointment letter duly signed by the President herself dated July 12, 2001 which antedates the Endriga Board's election of July 13, 2001. Attached herewith is a copy of the said Malacañang Palace appointment letter of July 12 duly annotated by Endriga himself to wit: *"Please Note: The Board (the legitimate board) met July 13 and conducted an election that resulted in the same list as those contained in this appointment letter. The election is in accordance of the CCP Charter. Signed Balthazar Endriga"* It has always been the covenant of the CCP Angara Board that the presidential appointment ranks first by virtue of the constitutional right of the President to name whoever he or she wishes to head a government agency or corporation.

Rada's characterization of the Court of Appeals ruling as "a very definitive decision" is a veritable *non sequitur* since the Appelate Court denied the motion of the Endriga camp for an Immediate Execution of Judgment in its decision of Aug. 3, 1999.

Rada also appears to misunderstand the protocol concerning resignations which oblige the resigning official to man his/her post until such time the appointing entity, in this case, the President, names a successor. If this were not so, Rufino would have been liable for abandonment under the Philippine Civil Service Code.

As for Rada's insinuation that Angara and Rufino had petulantly returned the Cecile Licad Asian Youth Orchestra concert tickets sent them due to the fact that these were not their "preferred seats" is absolutely untrue. The tickets were returned simply because both ladies had previous commitments—Angara was, in fact, abroad to attend her daughter's graduation and Rufino had already accepted a dinner invitation of Rep. Bella Castillo. Indeed, the tickets were returned so as to avoid wasting them and having empty seats to such a prestigious event.

Like her legal expertise, Rada's accounting acumen also leaves much to be desired. The P193 million which the Angara Board turned over to the Endriga Board was not solely comprised of a *"balato"* from the Estrada administration but rather was the fruit of judicious fiscal management, profits from special projects and theater revenues and zealous collection efforts by both Angara and Rufino with the CCP financial staff, of the government subsidies owed the CCP since 1986. To get a better perspective of this matter, one needs only to be reminded that upon the assumption into office by the Angara Board in 1999, the CCP coffers had a balance of only P78 million.

Finally, as for Rufino's age, it is not true that she is "only" 55 years old. She is 55 years young.—**HENRIETTA CLAUDIA 'BONJIN' BOLINAO, North Sy-quia, 1991 MH del Pilar, Malate, Manila**

How to fight narco-politics

RECENT exposés detailing the involvement of police and political figures in the drug trade and the staggering amounts of drug shipments that have been shown to have slipped through our shorelines have jolted the citizenry to the reality of the alarming inroads of narco-politics in our so-called "soft state."

Before our country turns into another Colombia, the citizens must wage a relentless war against narco-politics.

What does this entail? Basically, we must see to it that drug money does not elect the dummies of drug syndicates to public office, in all levels of governance, from the presidency down to the barangay level. It is easy to sniff out drug money. It comes flowing in torrents during elections. It came as no surprise when the candidate whose glossy colored posters adorned our whole archipelago was exposed to have connections with the Hong Kong triads.

Concretely, this means that we must not touch drug money or partake of it during elections. We must not sell our votes for all the drug money in the world. We must turn down juicy advertising and contracts for campaign materials, generous PR fees and the largesse flowing in the campaign trail of drug money-backed candidates. Let us gather all information and evidence we can lay our hands on and expose their drug connections and their being witting or unwitting tools of drug syndicates who want to turn our country into a narco-state. Let us see to it that they are prosecuted, ensuring that in the process, drug money does not corrupt fiscals, judges and lawyers and thwart the hand of justice.

We must take a drastic action to snatch our nation from the jaws of narco-politics that is devouring our children and infecting and destroying our institutions and robbing us of our bright future.

Say no to narco-money. Say no to narco-politicians. Send narco-politicians to jail, not to the Senate!—**TERESITA D. BALTAZAR, member, executive committee, Konsyensyang Pilipino, 265-C Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City**

Sugar sale already okayed by Customs

ALLOW us to clarify the news report headlined "17,500 bags of sugar rotting in NFA warehouse" (PDI, 10/21/01) by Juan Escandor Jr.

The report unfairly gives the impression that the failure of the commissioner of the Bureau of Customs to immediately issue an authority caused the delay in the disposition of subject shipment.

Collector Marcial Lopez, then district collector, Port of Legazpi, forwarded to me a second endorsement, dated Sept. 12, 2001, recommending acceptance of the offer of Monika Trading to purchase said lot at P1,045 per bag of sugar under a negotiated sale.

On Sept. 14, 2001, I endorsed the said recommendation of the district collector to the finance secretary for consideration and approval, which endorsement was received by the Department of Finance on Sept. 17, 2001.

Please note that all negotiated sales are allowed only after two failed bids and subject to the approval of the commissioner of the BOC and the finance secretary.—**TITUS B. VILLANUEVA, Ceso I, commissioner, Bureau of Customs**

Consumer advocacy

THIS refers to the column "The Consumer" of Marietta V. Giron which appears every Sunday in the Lifestyle section of the INQUIRER.

I wish to congratulate your paper as it appears to be the only paper that regularly features a column on consumer interests. Having been in the consumer movement for a long time, I have been asked many times why our media have shown very little interest in matters affecting consumers' welfare.

My organization and all other consumers who have been helped by your paper through Giron's column sincerely thank this paper. Please continue your invaluable help to the Filipino consumers in the protection of their rights and general welfare.—**ZENAIDA S. REYES, president, Consumers Federated Group of the Philippines, 19 Derby St., White Plains, Quezon City**

Not just gut issues

I WISH to thank the INQUIRER for publicizing my twin proposals asking: (1) Our colleagues in the Senate and in the House to refrain from calling ourselves "honorable" and, (2) Government functionaries from using low-numbered car plates.

The generally favorable reaction of the public to the proposals, I think, underscores the fact that—contrary to a growing materialistic assumption—people are not only concerned with gut issues like rice and fish, but also with matters metaphysical, like propriety and decency in the lives of our public officials.—**SEN. AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR., Senate, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City**

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Fleeing Afghans recount war horror

REUTERS

A TAIWAN emergency rescue squad carries a "victim" during a mock poison gas attack at an underground rail station in Taipei Oct. 25. Taiwan, like many other countries, is stepping up training for possible chemical or biological attacks.

CHAMAN, Pakistan—Afghan refugees reaching the border with Pakistan are recounting horrific experiences as they flee the mounting conflict between US warplanes and the Taliban militia.

Staff of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said people arriving at the border were telling of seeing dead and starving children and many homeless and desperate families. And it is expected to worsen.

More than 60,000 refugees have crossed into Pakistan since the September 11 suicide plane attacks on New York and Washington.

That number, according to UNHCR spokesperson Yusuf Hassan, is expected to rise to 300,000 within weeks and up to 1.5 million in the longer term.

Refugees are also confirming UNHCR projections that thousands more are on their way with the cities of Kandâhar—a Taliban stronghold—and Herat virtually emptied following 18 days of bombing.

According to United Nations officials up to 70 percent of the populations of Herat and Kandahar have now fled.

"They are coming here," said refugee Abdul Hameel at the emergency camp of Killi Faizo near the Chaman border post in southwest Pakistan. "It will only take a few days but they are coming."

Hameel traveled from his village of Badgiz outside the western Afghan city of Herat to Killi Faizoi, a camp established this week by the Pakistan government and the UNHCR.

The camp will handle only the most desperate cases with a clinic to be operated by the Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) aid group.

Hameel said he traveled for six days with five families. On the way he counted 28 dead civilians on the roadside. He said Kandahar in southern Afghanistan was rubble and empty.

In the same camp, an emaciated 30-year-old women who declined to be named said she fled Kabul almost two weeks ago after her husband was killed during a US air raid.

"I took my five children and begged rides to the border," she said. The journey took five days and they spent the sixth day in the open on the Afghan side of the border, about 500 meters from Chaman, before being allowed to cross.

"Look at me, I have nothing."

Abdul Gafoor said his entire family of 18 was killed by a missile strike over Tarai in Urzugan province.

He fled to Chaman, bringing two orphans and arriving at the same time as Abdul Karim, who said six relatives were injured in the heavy bombing of Herat that had left "many civilians buried alive."

AFP

Only 3 nations known capable of making anthrax additive

WASHINGTON—The anthrax spores that contaminated the air in a US Senate office last week had been treated with a chemical additive so sophisticated that only Iraq, the former Soviet Union and the United States are thought to have been capable of making it, the Washington Post reported on Thursday.

The Post, quoting sources and experts close to the investigation of anthrax-tainted letters sent to the Senate and media organizations, said those three nations were the only countries known to have developed the kind of additives that allow anthrax spores to remain suspended in the air, and thus become more easily inhaled and more deadly.

But the newspaper said a government official with direct knowledge of the investigation felt that the totality of evidence in hand suggested it was unlikely that the spores were originally produced in the former Soviet Union or Iraq.

Three people have died from inhalation anthrax and nine others have been infected in the United States since letters containing the potentially lethal bacteria were sent through the mail.

Two of the dead were postmen who worked in a Washington facility that processed mail sent to the US Capitol, including a tainted letter that went to the office of Senate majority leader Tom Daschle. The other person killed by anthrax was a photo editor at a supermarket tabloid newspaper in Florida.

US officials have so far been unable to pinpoint the source of the anthrax, or to name a possible culprit. President George W. Bush has said he "wouldn't put it past" Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden, who the United States holds responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

The FBI has released the text of three tainted letters sent to Daschle, NBC News and the New York Post. They have virtually identical handwriting and contain the words "Death to America" and "Allah is great."

The Washington Post article said that even identifying the sophisticated coating used to treat the anthrax found in Daschle's office would not necessarily solve the question of who was carrying out the anthrax attacks since little is known about recent security surrounding the stores of stocks held by Iraq, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Reuters

China worries about oil source after attacks

BEIJING—China has shown renewed interest in establishing a strategic oil reserve after the attacks on the United States highlighted its vulnerability to growing dependence on crude from the Middle East.

Chinese officials visited the United States for advice on a reserve after the Sept. 11 attacks and Beijing had also shown desire to become a member of the International Energy Agency (IEA), which supervises oil stocks, analysts and officials said.

"China is vulnerable. Increasing oil stocks would be a prudent measure for China in light of current conditions," Milton Russell, director of the Joint Energy and Environment Institute think-tank, told an industry conference this week.

China—both a net oil importer and a big buyer of Mideast crude—fears the US-led retaliatory strikes on Afghanistan after the Sept. 11 attacks could disrupt transport and sales.

After years of debate, China said in March it would establish a reserve by 2005. The powerful State Economic and Trade Commission said in June the reserve would hold eight million cubic meters of oil.

But the attacks on the United States appear to have pushed the issue higher on the agenda, analysts and officials said.

"We must draw on the experiences of developed countries to speed up establishment of an oil security system, including industry management, strategic reserves and oil futures," said Zhang Zhigang, vice minister of the State Economic and Trade Commission, at the Beijing Oil Forum.

Earlier this month, a Chinese delegation met officials from the US Department of Energy in Washington for discussions on how the United States administers its strategic reserve.

"They talked about how they wanted more collaboration in terms of the study of the strategic reserves," David Johnson, director of the planning and engineering office for the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve, said.

Reuters

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Israel pulls out of raided area, eyes total withdrawal

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israeli forces left the West Bank village of Beit Rima early Thursday after a bloody raid, as the government mulled bowing to mounting US pressure and quitting all the Palestinian towns it partly reoccupied in the hunt for killers of a cabinet minister.

As Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was set to meet top ministers to discuss a possible pull-out, killing continued on the ground, with a 20-year-old Palestinian policeman shot dead in Bethlehem, just south of Jerusalem.

Palestinian officials say more than 50 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's massive push into the West Bank.

No Israeli has died in the latest violence, described by the army as a "breakwater" against Palestinian attacks.

Sharon described the assault on Beit Rima and the extended incursions and sieges of the self-rule towns as a major success against "terrorist organizations," and said they had led to the capture of two of the assassins of tourism minister Rehavam Zeevi.

But in the face of Palestinian claims that the men were arrested before the Beit Rima raid, the Israeli government was vague as to when the men were nabbed.

The exact number of dead, wounded and arrested is still unknown.

Israel said the raid left at least five dead, compared to reports by a Palestinian medic that nine bodies were collected and a claim by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine that 16 had died.

The PFLP claimed Zeevi's killing in revenge for Israel's assassination of PFLP leader Abu Ali Mustapha in August.

Sharon has said he would not end the [illegible] mission, which the Palestinians say has extended the initial incursions into six major towns, unless Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat hands over everyone linked to Zeevi's death.

Israel has until now shrugged off US pressure to pull out.

Washington wants the region calmed so it can keep Arab backing for its strikes on Afghanistan and the man it suspects killed 5,000 people in New York and Washington, Osama bin Laden.

Israel has argued that if the United States can hunt down terror suspects thousands of miles away, it can do so in its own backyard.

But the Palestinian leadership described what went on in Beit Rima, sealed off from the world's media by the Israeli army, as a "massacre."

[illegible] militants [illegible] before dawn on Wednesday, only to be [illegible] down by Israeli troops and attack helicopters.

Hundreds of Israeli troops swept through the village in the Israeli raid, northwest of Ramallah, bursting into homes and hauling off around 50 men at gunpoint, one of the men detained, Imad Fumawi, 32, said.

He said he was held in a nearby army base handcuffed and blindfolded for around 24 hours before being left still bound in the village center as the Israeli troops left in the darkness early Thursday.

Villagers came out and cut off the plastic handcuffs and removed the blindfolds from Fumawi and around 30 others. AFP

REUTERS

MOURNERS carry the bodies of four of five slain Palestinians killed a night earlier by Israeli troops during their funeral in the West Bank town of Tulkarem Oct. 24.

Pinochet henchmen ordered arrested

PARIS—A judge investigating the disappearance of five French nationals during the rule of Augusto Pinochet issued 15 international arrest warrants on Thursday against henchmen of the former Chilean dictator, a judicial official said.

Most of the 15 are former generals in the Chilean army, who ordered the French nationals into custody or aided their detention.

An arrest warrant was issued for General Manuel Contreras, 72, the founder of Pinochet's infamous secret police force.

Also sought is Paul Schaefer, 79, founder of the Colonia Dignidad (Colony of Dignity), a large Andean region where many political dissidents were detained during Pinochet's violent rule from 1973 to 1990.

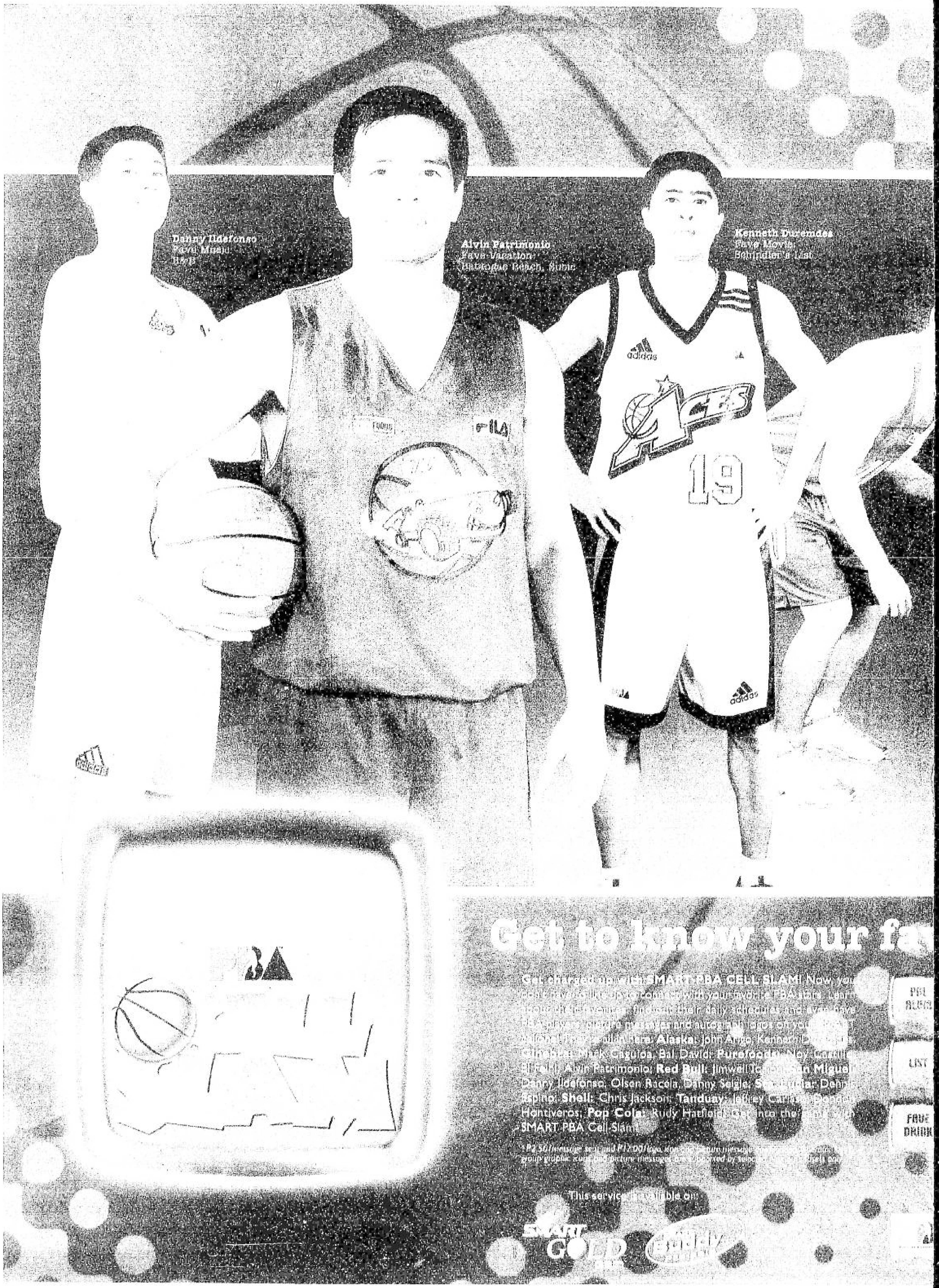
Judge Roger Le Loire issued the arrest warrants for "sequestration accompanied by torture" and will submit them to Interpol and Chilean authorities, the source said.

In 1998, Le Loire also issued two arrest warrants against Pinochet as well as two other Chilean officials.

Most of the people concerned by the latest warrants have refused to cooperate in the case. In July, Contreras declined to answer questions about the disappearances, saying he did not recognize the jurisdiction of French courts for events that took place in Chile.

Though there is little chance of Pinochet and his henchmen being arrested as a result of the warrants, it is nonetheless likely that all the suspects will be tried in absentia in France within the next two years, the judicial official said.

The infirm 85-year-old Pinochet has been accused in Chile of involvement in the murder and disappearance of political opponents in the month after his bloody rise to power in a 1973 coup, but has been declared unfit to stand trial. AFP



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10 die in Swiss Alps collision; traffic in chaos

AIROLO, Switzerland—Rescuers were struggling Thursday to put out a fire still burning in the world's second largest road tunnel, while police said another accident threatened to plunge traffic through the Swiss Alps into chaos.

Police said the death toll following Wednesday's accident in the St. Gotthard tunnel in southern Switzerland remained at 10, but the fire caused by the head-on collision between two trucks was still burning 24 hours after the accident and there were fears that more people had been trapped inside.

"We still have 10 dead. We haven't been able to reach the exact location of the accident because of the heat," local police spokesperson Marino Mora said.

"Fire services are about 100 meters away, they tried to approach three times last night, in vain," Mora added.

Mora rejected a figure of 14 dead reported by Swiss television.

He said that on Wednesday evening firefighters had managed to get slightly closer and caught a glimpse of 10 bodies, but rescuers said earlier there were about five or six cars they had not been able to search.

More than 60 firefighters were edging their way through the last 100 meters toward the center of the fire, using special equipment to cool the tunnel.

Rescuers said that the searing heat had caused part of the arched roof of the tunnel to collapse.

Meanwhile, the Swiss mountain pass which is taking most of the traffic diverted following the blaze was closed on Thursday morning after another accident involving a truck, police said.

One person was killed in the accident between a truck and three cars in the village of Pian San Giacomo, near the southern entrance to the tunnel under the St Bernardino pass.

Police warned that traffic between northern and southern Switzerland, a key commercial route for trucks between Germany and Italy, was likely to be severely disrupted.

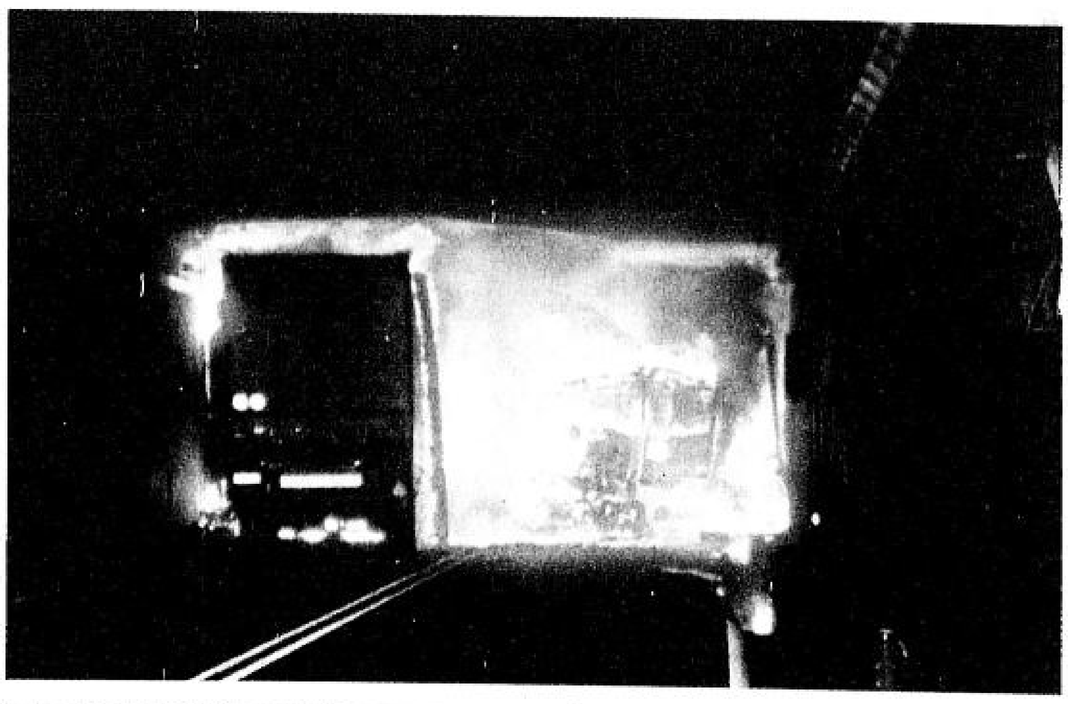
Only trains were circulating normally, and Swiss railways (CFF) said they had doubled their capacity for the combined road-rail service, which carries trucks by train between Basel on the German border and northern Italy.

The blaze in the 16.5 km St Gotthard prompted renewed calls in the Swiss press on Thursday to speed up plans to shift road traffic through the Swiss Alps onto rail.

"On the rail, straight away," commented the Tages-Anzeiger newspaper.

The confirmed dead in the St. Gotthard included one of the truck drivers and nine people in cars not involved in the head-on collision, some of whom may have been overcome by thick smoke produced by the load on both trucks, including tires.

Rescue services spokesman Beppe Savari said that one victim he came upon only meters from the entrance to the emergency tunnel—and survival—was shrivelled up like a victim of the volcano Mt Vesuvius in ancient Pompei. *AFP*



VEHICLES burn inside the Gotthard tunnel near its southern end at Airolo Oct. 24. At least 10 people died after two trucks collided, starting an inferno inside the narrow, dimly-lit 17-km tunnel through the Swiss-Italian alps. REUTERS

2 killed, 80 hurt in Thai explosion

PAK CHONG, Thailand—At least 80 people were injured and two people killed when a truck loaded with explosives blew up at a Thai military weapons warehouse on Thursday, officials said.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said 17 military personnel and security guards believed to be working at the weapons complex Thursday were also unaccounted for.

"However, the government has not yet been able to assess the whole damage," he told reporters in Bangkok.

Army officials said the arsenal, which stores bullets, gunpowder, landmines and other artillery, exploded at Pak Chong in Nakorn Ratchasima Province, 260 km northeast of Bangkok.

Ammunition—some of it still live—was left scattered around the area, including on a highway, one km from the blast site. A nearby textile factory was in flames after having been hit by exploding ammunition.

Witnesses said they could still hear explosions more than two hours after the first blast, which shattered windows as much as seven km away.

A spokesperson for Pak Chong Nana hospital said army personnel and villagers were among the injured, who mostly sustained cuts and burns while kilometers away from the depot.

Two seriously injured people were transferred to the main provincial hospitals in Nakhon Ratchasima and Saraburi provinces, she said.

One person was confirmed dead, a 70-year-old man believed to have suffered a heart attack amid the explosions, she added.

Pak Chong police lieutenant Teerarawut Theraphat said near the disaster scene that a woman was also confirmed dead.

"Two people were killed, one woman and one man," he said, adding that it was still too dangerous to approach the depot and that casualties could go much higher.

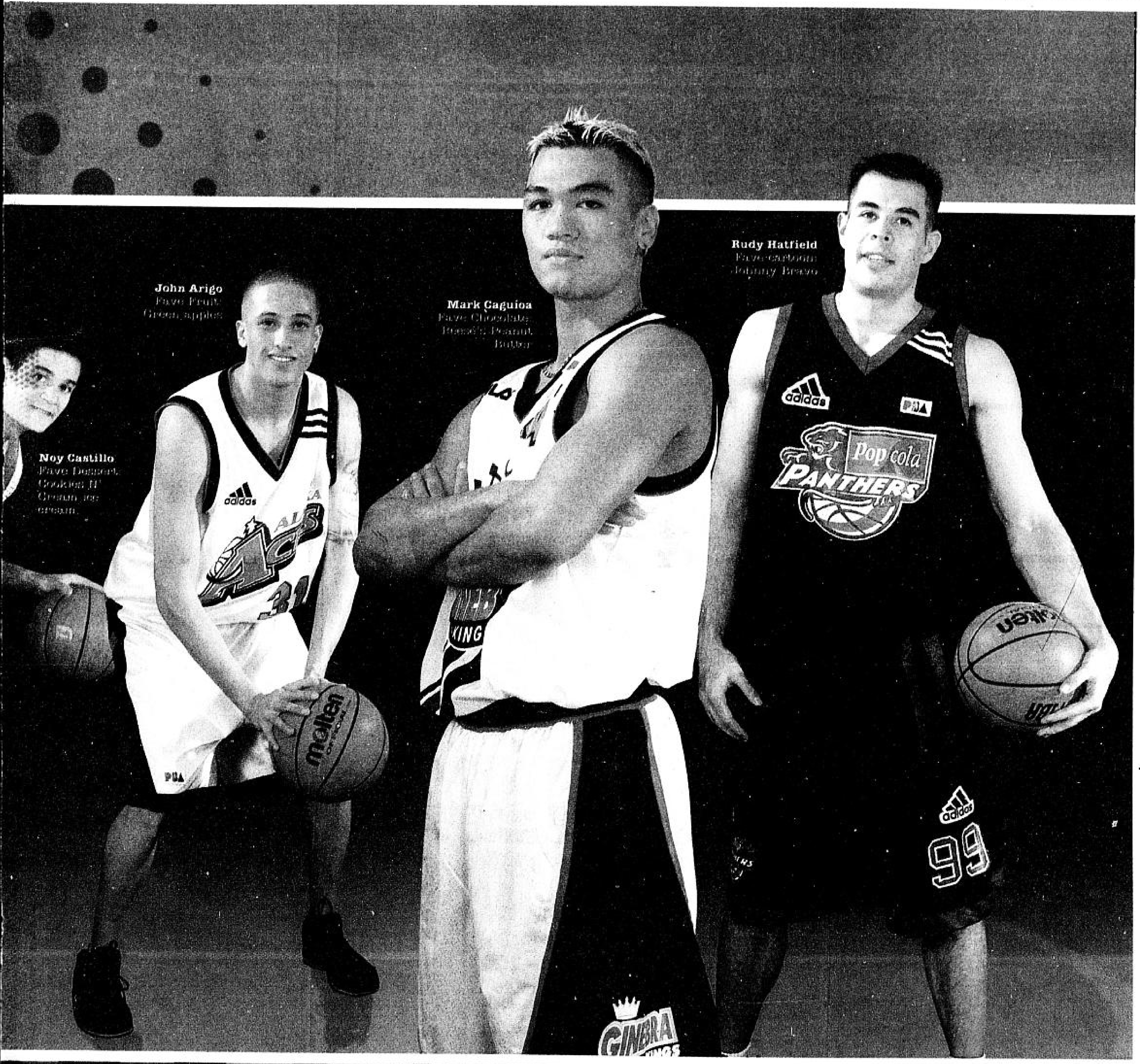
"In the area itself we do not know how many people were hurt."

Local authorities said they began evacuating people in a 20-km radius around the plant. Charnchai said around 2,000 people had been evacuated.

Interior Minister Purachai Piumsombun told a Bangkok radio station the blasts had been set off by an accident involving a truck in the warehouse. This caused a series of explosions in the compound, which has 44 weapons stores.

"We heard there were some deaths too but I haven't been told the number yet," Purachai said.

The military said the warehouse was used to store a range of ammunition. *Reuters, AFP*



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Britain begins demolishing army facilities in N. Ireland

LONDON—Britain began to demolish an army base and other security installations in Northern Ireland Thursday as peace hopes rose following the Irish Republican Army's (IRA's) landmark move to start disarming.

Northern Ireland Secretary John Reid announced in parliament Wednesday that the army base in Magherafelt, County Derry, and security installations at Newtownhamilton, would be pulled down.

Similar dismantling operations began Wednesday on two military observation towers in south Armagh.

"Our aim is to secure as early a return as possible to normal security arrangements," Reid told parliament.

He said the moves were part of a "rolling program" of security normalization, following the IRA's disarmament announcement which has breathed new life into the troubled peace process.

The measures are aimed at accelerating the implementation of the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement, drawn up to end decades of sectarian conflict by apportioning power between Protestants and Catholics.

Northern Ireland's overwhelmingly Catholic Republicans want the province reunited with the Irish Republic, while the mostly Protestant Unionists want it to remain a part of Britain.

The IRA, Northern Ireland's main Catholic paramilitary group, announced Tuesday that it had begun disarming, an unprecedented gesture that sparked hope that loyalist (unionist) paramilitaries might follow suit.

So far the move to disarm has been regarded suspiciously by loyalist groups while the IRA has been blasted by hardline republican groups for selling out.

In a related development, Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble announced he was re-nominating his party's three ministers to the province's Stormont executive.

Belfast's political institutions faced collapse after the five Protestant Unionist ministers on the 10-member executive announced last week that they were resigning because the IRA had not destroyed or given up a single gun.

Trimble had to re-nominate his ministers before midnight on Thursday to avoid suspension of the devolved administration. *AFP*

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REUTERS

A MAN and a boy stand on a fence beside a Protestant mural painted on a building in North Belfast, Oct. 24. The IRA's decision to disarm has prompted a swift, favorable response from the British government.

Pope urges revival of China-Vatican ties

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II called Wednesday for the restoration of diplomatic ties between the Vatican and China and apologized once again for any "errors" made by missionaries in the past.

"I feel deep sadness for those errors and limits of the past, and I regret that in many people these failings may have given the impression of a lack of respect and esteem for the Chinese people on the part of the Catholic Church, making them feel that the church was motivated by feelings of hostility towards China," he said.

"For all of this, I ask the forgiveness and understanding of those who may have felt hurt in some way by such actions on the part of Christians."

The pontiff went on to say that the "present moment of profound disquiet in the international community calls for a fervent commitment on the part of everyone to creating and developing ties of understanding, friendship and solidarity among peoples.

"In this context, the normalization of relations between the People's Republic of China and the Holy See would undoubtedly have positive repercussions for humanity's progress."

China and the Vatican broke formal relations in 1951, when the Communists kicked out missionaries and forced Catholics to sever ties with Rome.

China now has a state-sanctioned Patriotic Church which doesn't recognize papal authority, including the right to name bishops.

Roman Catholics in China loyal to the Pope have risked persecution, and some pro-Pope clergy who lead the underground flock have been jailed.

John Paul's apology and his call for normalizing relations came in a message addressed to a symposium in Rome on a 17th-century Jesuit missionary who spent 28 years in China, the Rev. Matteo Ricci.

"The church must not be afraid of historical truth and she is ready—with deeply felt pain—to admit the responsibility of her children. This is true also with regard to her relationship, past and present, with the Chinese people."

A year ago, in the midst of a bitter dispute with China over the canonization of 120 missionaries killed in anti-Western and anti-church violence, John Paul offered a similar apology.

The Pope has long wanted better relations with China. Last summer, when he met with US President George W. Bush, the pontiff's aides asked the United States for help in establishing contacts with Beijing.

The Vatican maintains diplomatic relations with Taiwan. China forbids allegiance to the papacy and has demanded that the Vatican break ties with Taiwan as a condition for restoring relations. *AP*

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UN calls for investigation of death boat allegations

BOGOR, Indonesia—Senior UN officials in Indonesia Wednesday called on the government to investigate allegations that police forced asylum seekers onto an unseaworthy boat that sank, leaving 374 people dead.

Some of the 44 survivors of the tragedy have accused Indonesian police of threatening to kill them if they did not board the boat last week.

However, national deputy police spokesperson Lt. Col. Prasetyo denied the allegations.

"The accusations are not true," he said. "It is our duty to protect the refugees."

Other asylum seekers said earlier they were not coerced onto the boat.

Meanwhile, Indonesia's Foreign Minister Hasan Wirayuda announced plans Wednesday for an international conference on ways to curb illegal migration. He did not say when the meeting would take place.

Indonesia has been criticized by Australia for failing to crack down on the increasing flow of asylum seekers passing through its territory on their way to Australia or New Zealand.

The issue also will be discussed at the annual summit of the Association of South East Asian Nations next month in Brunei, Wirayuda said.

In a refugee hostel in the town of Bogor, about 60 km south of the capital Jakarta, several of the survivors were recuperating on Wednesday.

Achmad Hussein Ali, an Iraqi, said about 30 police officers, armed with pistols and automatic weapons, made the 418 passengers board the vessel even though several did not want to after seeing its poor condition. *AP*

A PHOTO of three young girls who drowned last Friday when an overcrowded Indonesian boat sank attempting to smuggle hundreds of asylum seekers to Australia sits in a shrine dedicated to them at a Sydney mosque Oct. 25 during a prayer for the more than 350 refugees who died. REUTERS

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O.J. Simpson dodges jail term once more

MIAMI—A Florida jury on Wednesday found former football star O.J. Simpson not guilty of auto burglary and battery in a road-rage case that could have landed him in prison for up to 16 years.

The jury took around 90 minutes to find Simpson not guilty of grabbing another driver's glasses and scratching his face in the traffic spat in a Miami suburb last year.

The 54-year-old Simpson looked relieved as the verdict was read, nodding and mouthing the words "thank you" toward the jury with his hand pressed to his heart before hugging his attorney, Yale Galanter.

The charges of felony auto burglary and misdemeanor battery carried a potential sentence of up to 16 years.

Simpson became a household name during his trial and acquittal in 1995 in the stabbing murders of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

In the road-rage case that put Simpson in court again, motorist Jeffrey Pattinson said Simpson ran a stop sign on Dec. 4, 2000, forcing him to slam on his brakes. When he honked his horn, Simpson stopped his car, flew into a rage, reached into Pattinson's car and grabbed his glasses, scratching him, Pattinson testified.

But Simpson denied the allegations, saying Pattinson was outside his car and had his glasses in his hand when the two confronted each other on the street. He accused Pattinson of being the aggressor.

After the verdict, prosecutor Abbe Rifkin said, "Obviously we are disappointed but we respect the jury."

Defense attorney Galanter reiterated his view that the case had been blown up out of proportion because of Simpson's celebrity status, calling it a "very major piece of litigation" over a very minor traffic altercation.

Galanter said Simpson would have no comment on the verdict but wanted to rush home to hug his two children, who moved with him to Miami last year and attend a local school.

Simpson, who parlayed a spectacular run in the National Football League into a career as a sportscaster, TV pitchman and actor, was charged in 1994 with the slashing deaths of Brown and Goldman. He was acquitted after a lengthy criminal trial but was later found liable for their deaths in a civil case and was ordered to pay $33 million. *Reuters*

SIMPSON reacting to the "not guilty" verdict Oct. 24. REUTERS

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Left vows to block Gloria budget

MACAPAGAL

BAGUIO CITY—The party-list group Bayan Muna has joined an initiative in the House of Representatives to block the proposed 2002 budget measure because of its "barely concealed provisions that make it a war budget."

Roberto de Castro, Bayan Muna deputy secretary general, said sectoral Representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran and Liza Maza had found specific allocations in the pending P780.8-billion budget bill which are "shopping allowances for new armaments."

De Castro said President Macapagal-Arroyo had endorsed the initial military budgets that call for an arms buildup.

"I went through the budget appropriations myself and I saw three envelopes full of budget outlines for the Department of National Defense, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines itself. There was a P10-million allocation for armaments and this budget conceals many allocations for housing as well as for some 10,000 members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit," De Castro said in Filipino.

The military buildup had already sacrificed much of the country's public service allocations next year, he told the Baguio-leg of a nationwide march to support a proposed P125-wage hike legislation.

"Take the health component alone. The World Health Organization demands that a country should allocate at least 5 percent of its budget to health services, but our own health appropriation next year amounts to only 0.65 percent or P40 in health benefits for every Filipino," De Castro said.

He claimed that the arms buildup would be part of a coordinated anti-terrorism formula for countries backing the United States in its war on Afghanistan.

"This new budget may be the substance of her (Ms Macapagal) speech in the United States or before a scheduled November session to discuss the mutual defense treaty (between the US and the Philippines)," he said.

De Castro said Bayan Muna would press for a reassessment of the budget measure because of an agreement between Speaker Jose de Venecia and the House majority to seal the current budget measure before Congress winds up for a holiday recess this week.

Ms Macapagal had expressed full support for the United States-led war against terrorism following the Sept. 11 attacks on US soil.

Militant groups had protested Ms Macapagal's support for the war, saying she should have first addressed the country's needs before supporting the United States.

Some leftist groups even called Ms Macapagal's decision as treason, accusing her of violating the Constitution for allowing US troops and military hardware to be docked at Clark and Subic. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Probe of Ecija killings sought

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Church leaders and two cause-oriented groups are pressing for an investigation of the death of five people in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, on Oct. 8 who the military claimed were communist rebels killed in an encounter.

Bishop Solito Toquero of the United Methodist Church based in Manila and representatives of Bayan Muna and Karapatan said they would seek an independent investigation of the death of the five "who appeared to have been massacred."

The fatalities were identified as Jay-ar Alvendia, 15; Marvin Cosep, 16; Leo Gallardo, 18; Gertrude Curamen, 39; and Jose Martin, 42, all residents of Barangay Conversion in Pantabangan.

Three of them were members of the UMC, Toquero said.

UMC, Bayan Muna and Karapatan officials said initial investigation showed they were not killed in an encounter.

Toquero, Rev. George Buenaventura and Rev. Jeremias Garcia Sr. of the UMC cited the executive summary report of a forensic investigation team that examined the exhumed bodies of the fatalities.

The examination was conducted by Dr. Regalado Aure, medico-legal officer of the Commission on Human Rights, and Jerome Bailen, anthropology professor of the University of the Philippines.

The three churchmen, who called for and sponsored the forensic investigation, were present in the examination of the exhumed bodies in Barangay Conversion Monday morning.

In their report, Aure and Bailen said evidence of torture and "unusual injuries" were found on the bodies.

They said the bodies of three of the victims had hack wounds. One fatality had a large gaping slash wound in his neck. ***Anselmo Roque with reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 26° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 34° Lo 21°
Laoag	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 29° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/10/25/01

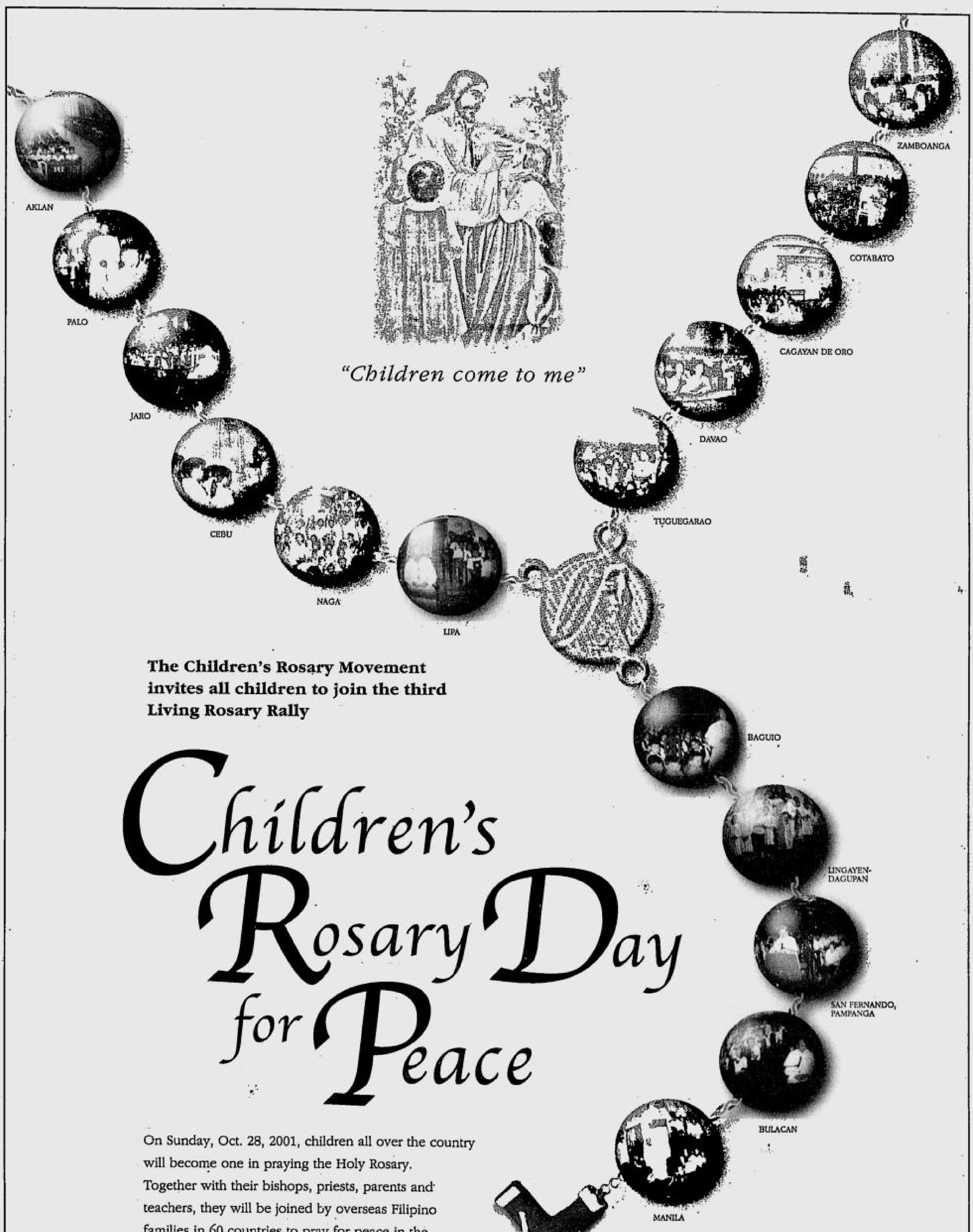
ROUNDUP

Outstanding in nutrition

SAN FERNANDO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit awarded local government units that have excelled in nutrition program management in 2000 in a recent ceremony in Malacañang. The Nutrition Honor Award, the highest award, was conferred to Echague, Isabela; Los Baños, Laguna; Trece Martires City; and Calape, Bohol. The Consistent Regional Outstanding Winner in Nutrition (Crown) award went to Baguio City; Dagupan City; Dupax del Sur, Nueva Vizcaya; Tagaytay City; Kalibo, Aklan; Talibon, Bohol; and Bohol province.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

'Battle of Alitao'

A TREK to Mt. Banahaw, Tayabas, Quezon, to unveil the historical marker "Battle of Alitao" and to mark the 160th commemoration of the patriotism of Apolinario "Hermano Pule" de la Cruz, leader and founder of the Confradia de San Jose is set today. An open forum dubbed as "Panayam at Talakayan" was held yesterday at the Alitao municipal town. The celebration is headed by the National Historical Institute (NHI) under Dr. Pablo S. Trillana III, chair and executive director of the NHI. The other guests in the event include Dr. Regino Paular, chief of the NHI historical education division; Wilfredo Envarga, Quezon province governor; Faustino Silang, mayor of Tayabas, Quezon; and lawyer Gilbert Damaligan, chair of the Hermano Pule committee. They will unveil the historical marker of the Battle of Alitao on Mt. Banahaw in Tayabas, Quezon.



"Children come to me"

The Children's Rosary Movement invites all children to join the third Living Rosary Rally

Children's Rosary Day for Peace

On Sunday, Oct. 28, 2001, children all over the country will become one in praying the Holy Rosary. Together with their bishops, priests, parents and teachers, they will be joined by overseas Filipino families in 60 countries to pray for peace in the country and the whole world. Children will gather in their respective parishes from 4pm to 5pm to simultaneously pray the Holy Rosary and celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

The Rosary Rally at Villa San Miguel will be aired on ABS-CBN ANC Channel 21 from 4:30pm to 5:00pm to be followed by a nationwide video presentation from 5:00pm to 6:00pm.

Nationwide rally sponsor
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Tel. 521-6953

FAMILY ROSARY CRUSADE
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United Nations Ave., Paco, Manila
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Cebu tour execs rally to protest travel ban

By Debra Jane V. Magallon
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—More than 200 tourism officials and tour operators in Cebu yesterday staged a demonstration before the Japanese consulate office here to appeal for the lifting of the Japanese travel ban to the Philippines.

Travel agencies and operators in Cebu were alarmed by the Japanese government's travel advisory on Oct. 8 advising its citizens to refrain from making "non-essential" trips to the Philippines.

The same advisory placed the entire Philippines under alert Level 2 while some parts of Mindanao under alert Level 3.

Joan Tiu, president of the Cebu Association of Tour Operators (CATO), explained that when Japan placed the country on alert Level 2, it means that Japanese tour operators and agents are not allowed to sell organized tour packages to the Philippines.

The advisory adversely affected Cebu's tourism industry as 14 out of 23 members of the Cebu Association of Tour Operators cater to the Japanese market. With the travel ban, tourist bookings in the hotels and resorts in Cebu have dropped by 70 percent, Ninety percent of the tour bookings for October and November have also been postponed indefinitely.

"We strongly feel the necessity for the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to reassess the safety and security situation of the Philippines, for we firmly believe that the basis for which this advisory was issued may not at all be existing particularly in the Visayas region," read the manifesto presented to the Japanese consular office here yesterday by the tourism industry representatives in Cebu.

At the Metrobank Plaza along Osmeña Boulevard, where the Japanese consulate is located, the demonstrators chanted "lift the ban."

Randy Baron, vice president of the Hotel, Restaurants, Resorts Association of Cebu (HRRAC), said during the rally that, they respect the Japanese government's effort to protect its citizens in the Philippines, but they still found it unfair that Cebu was included in the travel ban since Cebu is one of the safest tourism havens in the country.

Kumuyashi Yuji, a Japanese national and the vice president of the Japan Association of Travel Industries–Cebu (JATIC) said he was surprised why Japan issued the advisory.

He said he had been living in Cebu for about 10 years and he can truly say that Cebu is safe.

The others who took part in yesterday's rally were representatives from the city governments of Cebu, Mandaue and Lapu-lapu, the Department of Tourism-Central Visayas Office, the Regional Tourism Council and the Cebu City Tourism Commission.

HOSPITAL WASTES

Plan to extend incinerator use hit

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Environment advocates have criticized the plan of the Department of Health to extend the use of hospital incinerators beyond 2003, the deadline set by the Clean Air Act to decommission all incinerators.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit proposed the extension of the use of medical incinerators during a recent Senate hearing in Manila. The use of incinerators, he said, would prevent the outbreak of "dangerous diseases unless an alternative disposal system is found."

Dayrit said the government could save money through incinerators because alternative technology like microwaving is too expensive.

Greenpeace Southeast Asia, an international environment activist group, however, warned of risks associated with incineration technology.

Francis dela Cruz, toxic campaigner of Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said in a statement Oct. 23 that by burning bio-medical wastes, incinerators give off dioxins, which are known and proven carcinogens linked to various reproductive disorders such as birth defects and deficiencies. Burning also sets free toxic heavy metals like cadmium, mercury and lead present in many hospital wastes.

In June, the Western Visayas Medical Center incinerator was a subject of complaints of some 50 residents in Mandurriao district, this city, because it gave off noxious odor and thick smoke. The hospital had temporarily stopped operating the incinerator and had the facility fenced off.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources had conducted a "visual investigation" but has yet to test the incinerator for pollution. Virginio Fabronero of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the DENR, said his office has no capability to test it for pollutants such as dioxins, furans and other heavy metals.

Diana Magbanua, an employee of the WVMC whose house is some 10 meters from the incinerator, said her family of six suffered various respiratory ailments since the facility started operating in 1998. "When we inhale the smoke and ashes, we start to cough and suffered from sore throat that seems incurable," she said.

The incinerator was built inside the hospital compound. It was a wall away from the hospital nurses' dormitory, about eight meters from the female surgical ward, nine meters from the post-natal ward. It was also about 10 meters from the pediatric ward and nine meters from the medical ward where patients suffering from infectious diseases are confined.

Aside from Magbanua, more than a hundred residents and hospital employees signed a petition complaining against the odor and smoke from the incinerator.

Dr. Jose Mari Fermin, the hospital director of WVMC, has refused to speak to reporters but told health officials that he would abide by the decision of the DOH and the DENR whether or not to close the waste facility.

The incinerator at the WVMC is one of the 25 incinerators operating in government hospitals all over the country. Installed between April 1997 to September 1998, the incinerators were part of a $20 million loan package from Austria. Many private hospitals have incinerators and off-site waste incineration facilities.

Dela Cruz challenged Dayrit to inform the public on the performance of the Austrian-made incinerators.

In a visit to Iloilo last August, Jorge Emmanuel, a Filipino-American chemical engineer who had evaluated incinerators in the United States, said that the Austrian-made incinerator at the WVMC is a "second hand reject."

Emmanuel said the incinerator is an old design that has no anti-pollution features.

He said similar types of incinerators were shut down in the United States.

2 sued for overprice of Pinatubo housing units

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—Charges of graft and abuse of authority against two ranking officials of the Department of Budget and Management-Task Force Mt. Pinatubo Commission (DBM-TFMPC) were filed before the office of the Ombudsman.

Seven former DBM-TFMPC employees filed the complaints against Flordelita Arrozal, deputy executive director and operations director of the agency, and Angelo Paras, finance director, on Sept. 15.

The complainants, led by Victorio Manuel, a former member of the agency's technical inspection team, claimed that the two officials had committed "anomalous acts" in the construction of 1,000 houses in the resettlement centers of Madapdap, Pandacaqui and Sta. Lucia in this province.

They said the approved cost of P58,889 a unit awarded to the Army's 51st Engineering Brigade in September last year had been adjusted to P64,087 within three months.

They also said construction and electrical materials used in the 1,000 houses were overpriced. President Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated recently the newly built houses at the three resettlement centers.

The complainants provided the Ombudsman with a list of P2.7 million worth of construction and related materials that were included in the contract but had allegedly not been installed and purchased or had been charged twice.

Both Arrozal and Paras denied the accusations against them. They said transactions involving the 1,000 new houses were in order and that changes and deviations from the programmed expenditures were authorized under the memorandum of agreement between the DBM-TFMPC and the 51st Engineering Brigade.

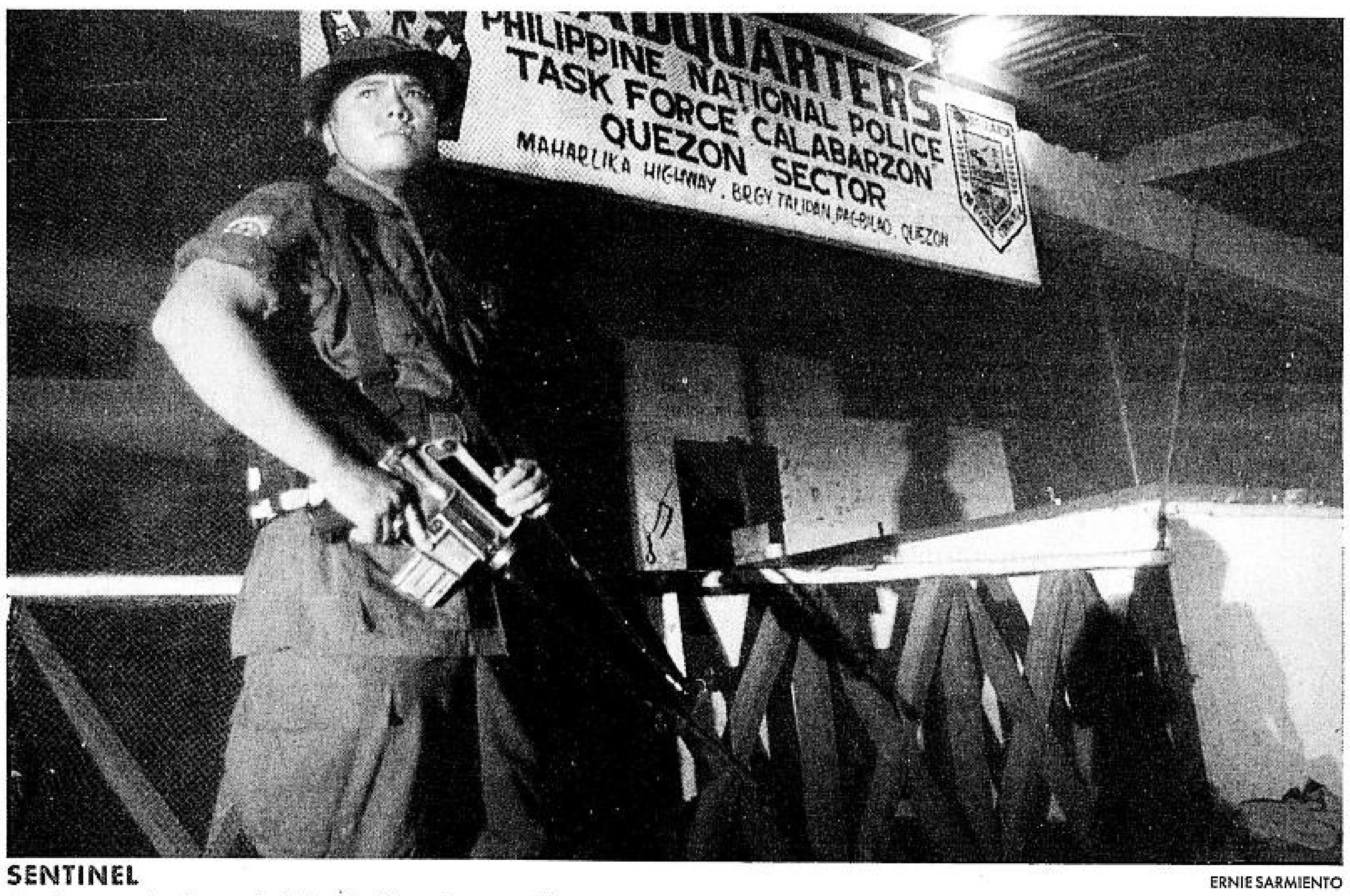
Arrozal said the escalation in the construction cost of each house was made to cope with the rise in the prices of construction materials. She said the price of cement alone had risen from P115 to P135 a bag.

She said the transfer and use of funds for the housing units were undertaken "with usual accounting and auditing procedures" and that the implementation of the project was post-audited by the resident auditor of the Commission on Audit at the 51st Engineering Brigade.

Arrozal and Paras described the allegations against them as "malicious." They said there were no instances to support that they had abused their power and authority.

Manuel also said they wanted an investigation of the ongoing construction of some 3,000 houses in Magalang, Mabalacat and Mexico towns in this province and in Palayan City in Nueva Ecija.

He said each house costs P85,000 which, he noted, is 23 percent higher than the P64,087 adjusted cost of the 1,000 newly built houses in those areas. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*


PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
TASK FORCE CALABARZON
QUEZON SECTOR
MAHARLIKA HIGHWAY, BRGY TALIDAN, PAGBILAO, QUEZON

SENTINEL

ERNIE SARMIENTO

A policeman stands guard at the Pagbilao, Quezon police station following an attack on the headquarters last September by communist guerrillas. The attack led to the death of a policeman.

Mayor's links with vigilante group denied

DAVAO CITY—The chief of the city's police force said there was no evidence that could link Mayor Rodrigo Duterte with the vigilante group Davao Death Squad (DDS).

Supt. Wilfredo Garcia cleared Duterte, even as most residents here believe the killings have the mayor's blessings.

The DDS started their brand of controlling criminality during Duterte's final years as mayor and were silent when he became congressman in 1998.

Shortly after he staged a comeback as mayor and won, suspected members of the vigilante group again staged the summary executions of suspected drug pushers and users, along with petty thieves.

"(But) we should have hard evidence," Garcia said about speculations that Duterte had a hand in the executions.

The summary executions of suspected criminals heightened the day after Duterte announced the names of some 500 individuals who he said could help in his bid to solve the drug menace.

One of those in the list died 13 hours after Duterte read his name, along with the others over his weekly radio and TV programs.

Amid the public perception that the police was sitting on its job, Garcia said they now have some leads for possible case building against those behind the spate of killings.

As this developed, Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano's order to relieve commanders who fail to stop the killings have been carried out.

First to be sacked was Sta. Ana police station chief Insp. Fe Basan, who was given his marching orders yesterday.

"Pending the investigation of the latest killing incident, Chief Inspector Basan was ordered to take a leave," Garcia said as he announced Basan's relief.

Garcia said he would also look into reports that Basan made a conflicting statement on the death of 17-year-old theft suspect Bernie Mahusay on Tuesday night.

Basan earlier said Mahusay's death was not the work of the Davao Death Squad.

Basan also contradicted the findings of investigators that Mahusay was shot with .45 cal pistols. Basan said the gunmen used .38 cal guns. *Dennis Jay C. Santos and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Baguio to hit 1M tourists but few are foreigners

BAGUIO CITY—The good news is that tourist arrivals in this mountain resort city may finally reach one million this year. The bad news is that unlike in previous years, most of these will be local tourists.

Edgar Juralbal, Department of Tourism regional tourist officer, said there is a noticeable drop in foreign tourists in Baguio since the terrorist attacks on the United States last month.

Tourist arrivals in September fell by 12.88 percent, from 41,694 tourists in the same month last year to 36,324.

Of the number, only 457 were foreigners. The number was the lowest in the past nine months.

The summer months of March to May registered an average of 4,000 foreign tourists monthly.

But the number of tourists from January to September this year totaled 651,997, compared to 636,000 for the same period last year, or an increase of 2.52 percent.

Purificacion Molintas, DOT Cordillera director, said Baguio is within its target of 1,084,853 tourist this year.

In 1990 and 1991, when the city was still reeling from the devastating 1990 earthquake, tourist arrivals averaged only more than 160,000 tourists yearly.

In 1999, Baguio was only the fifth top tourist destination, drawing only 7.10 percent of tourists in the country. Cebu received 24 percent of tourists, followed by Tagaytay City (14.7 percent), Cavite (10.3 percent) and Davao City (7.3 percent).

Baguio was expected to host more tourists because of the threat of conflicts in some parts of Mindanao.

Among foreign tourists, however, the number dropped by 11.8 percent, from 20,137 last year to 16,789 this year.

DOT reports said there was a noticeable drop in the number of Malaysians, Japanese, Taiwanese, Americans, Canadians, French, German, Dutch, Swiss and British tourists in Baguio.

But more than twice the number of Korean tourists came to Baguio this year—from 469 last year to 964 this year. There were also 585 Hong Kong tourists this year compared to 405 last year.

The country's tourism industry is suffering from a slump because of the effects of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the United States.

The US and Japanese governments had issued travel advisories to their citizens warning against traveling to the Philippines.

The country was put on the list of countries where tourists are at high security risk because of the series of kidnappings of foreigners by the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Mindanao. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

TARLAC PROJECT

PHOTO COURTESY OF ORETA OFFICE

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta recently visited Tarlac to discuss with Gov. Jose Yap (second from Oreta) and regional education director Vilma Labrador (next to Yap) her project to train teachers and students on the use of information technology as a tool for education in provincial schools.

Davao becoming 'salvage' capital–CHR

DAVAO CITY—The Commission on Human Rights here warned that the city is becoming the country's "salvaging" capital because of the series of summary executions of suspected criminals since last month.

Dominador Calamba II, CHR regional director for Southern Mindanao issued the statement just as two more drug suspects were killed on Oct. 15.

Eric Pijo, 21, of Salmonan, Quezon Blvd., and his cousin, Ronnie, 20, of Mini-Forest, Blvd., were shot by a motorcycle-riding gunman around 1 a.m. on that day. Ronnie survived but Eric died while being treated at a hospital.

A few hours later, Jimmy Basok, 26, of People's Village, Maa, was stabbed by a motorcycle-riding suspect along Rizal Street. He was declared dead on arrival at the Dr. Ricardo Limso Memorial Hospital.

Regional Anti-Narcotics Office director Supt. Efren Alcuizar confirmed that Eric and Basok were in the list of suspected drug pushers although they were considered "small-time."

Chief Insp. Leonardo Felonia, chief of the San Pedro police station, said Basok was also arrested in connection with charges of robbery.

The apparent vigilante killings brought to nine the number of suspected criminals executed by suspected vigilantes in a span of three weeks. Three other victims survived attempts on their lives.

Calamba also took the opportunity to assail police authorities for their alleged complacency over the series of street executions.

He said not a single suspect has been arrested since the killings started.

Calamba said the police have sufficient funds for its intelligence gathering, which makes it unbelievable why they were not able to solve the killings.

"I am not ready to say that they (law enforcers) are incompetent but I should say they know who the suspects really are," he said.

The human rights official said that even as some sectors have shown approval of the killings, the police should not tolerate them.

"(Because) if that is the case, that is one way of curtailing (the rights) of suspected drug pushers to due process," Calamba said. *Anthony A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gloria hails success of tourism in Camiguin

MAMBAJAO Camiguin—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the decline in the arrival of foreign tourists should not deter the development of the country's tourism industry.

Ms Macapagal cited the success of the tourism industry here as a good example that other areas in the country need to emulate.

This year, officials said they are expecting the number of tourists visiting the island to hit 60,000 as the Lanzones Festival started.

For the festival alone, about 30,000 people have already arrived according to Catalino Chan, the provincial tourism officer.

He said that last year, Camiguin received a total of 48,000 visitors who came here to enjoy the eco-tourism attractions of the province.

Gov. Pedro Romualdo earlier said the province was not dependent on foreign arrivals to prop up revenue from tourism because it targeted local tourists in its marketing efforts.

"You Camiguinons have set a good example to us since you did not depend on the foreign tourist arrival, instead you have developed your own domestic tourism, which is a lesson that we need to follow to face the world's problem today," Ms Macapagal said.

The President was accompanied by ranking government officials in gracing the opening of the festival here yesterday. Among them were Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and housing executive Edgardo Pamintuan.

Spanish Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja and Consul General Mahalil Baharam of Malaysia later on joined the President's party.

Ms Macapagal said with the success of the tourism industry here, there is more reason for the government to train its eyes on local tourists.

"Today, we need to double our effort and we need to depend on our domestic market to survive," Ms Macapagal said.

Before the Sipadan crisis broke out last year, foreign tourists frequent Camiguin for its beaches.

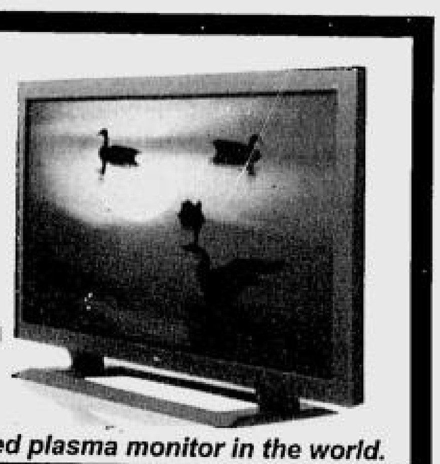
But the number of foreign arrivals continued to decline, especially in the aftermath of a series of kidnapping incidents perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf, and recently the global terrorism scare.

Last year, Queen Sofia of Spain also visited Camiguin where she vowed to help develop the tourism industry.

Ambassador Pantoja said he came to fulfill that promise. Yesterday, he signed a memorandum of agreement with Governor Romualdo for the development of the province's eco-tourism industry.

He also turned over a P38-million fund that he said was only for the first trance of the aid Spain is giving.

Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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Firm studying wind-generated power in Ilocos

LAOAG CITY—Another company is seriously putting up a wind farm in Ilocos Norte, firming up the province's potential as a supplier of wind-generated power in the country.

The Northwind Power Development Corp., which has been studying wind in Bangui town, signed an initial agreement with the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative (Inec) last week to develop a wind farm in the province.

Northwind, a power developer from Denmark, has installed three meteorological towers in Bangui, 65 km from this city. Meteorological towers are used in recording wind data.

The Philippine National Oil Co. is also gathering wind data here. Its meteorological towers are located in Burgos town, Bangui's neighbor.

According to Renato Balintec, head of Inec's engineering department, aside from the sites identified by the PNOC and Northwind, there are four more sites for wind farms available.

He said many investors have gone to Burgos and Bangui to explore the possibility of putting up wind farms.

Ilocos Norte is recognized as a potential site for wind power in the wind resource map of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in the United States. The best sites in the province are in Bangui and Burgos.

"A lot of companies want to put up wind farms but, I think, they are still waiting for the final data to be processed. Details are still being assessed and monitored so that the price per kilowatt hour can be determined," Balintec said.

The price per kilowatt hour will determine how they will play in the market, he said. He said wind data gathering takes place every 15 minutes to determine the strength and velocity of the wind.

Romillas Pascual, general manager of Inec, said the project is expected to take off next year with the construction of 24 turbines for the first phase. The target power for the first phase is 24 megawatts.

Bangui Vice Mayor Victoriano Soriano said the municipal council is waiting for the environmental clearance certificate and project proposal from Northwind before it endorses the project.

He said Northwind representatives had assured the council that the project would not affect the town's fishing industry and the ownership of private lands.

He said the company's project site covers Barangays Abaca, Masiquil, Manayon, Tagipuro and Baruyen.

Kira Espino, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Gov't equipment use by mayor hit

MATI, Davao Oriental—This capital town's mayor is under fire for allegedly using government-owned equipment in developing his own property.

Edgardo Lopez, president of the Davao Oriental Eastern Chamber of Commerce and industry, said the alleged practice of Mayor Francisco Rabat of using government equipment for his property and other privately-owned land here for free is prejudicial to the government.

Rabat has been in a cleanup drive since he assumed office three months ago. But the cleanup campaign has allegedly included a number of privately-owned land, in the guise of giving the town an "environment of attraction."

Rabat had promised to convert this first-class town into a city.

"Using government equipment for the benefit of private landowners for free is prejudicial to the government," Lopez said.

But Rabat said he was surprised by Lopez's allegation.

Lopez lost in this year's mayoralty elections.

"I don't believe he (Lopez) said that about me. We are friends already," Rabat said, as he accused this correspondent of lying.

He said he found no reason for Lopez to criticize him "because he is one of the beneficiaries of my cleanup drive."

But Lopez said he was "just tempted" by Rabat's offer to spruce up his property "because it was for free."

On Rabat's claim that he was one of the beneficiaries of his cleanup drive in Mati, Lopez said Rabat has benefited more than anyone else from his project.

"If you are to compute the number of private land here being developed (using government equipment such as compactors, arm rolls and dump trucks) he (Rabat) would come out the biggest beneficiary," Lopez said.

Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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SHEILA S. CORONEL
Metrobank Foundation
Outstanding Print Journalist

Good governance advocate

Indefatigable and feisty, Sheila Coronel made investigative journalism work against corruption and the abuses of power. Her exposès, which have often led to social and political reforms, highlight her crusade for good governance. In helping shape recent Philippine history, Sheila Coronel has firmly established the tradition of investigative journalism in the country and inspired her peers in other Asian countries. With her at the helm, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, a most respected organization in the field of journalism for the past eleven years, continues to serve as a true watchdog - protecting the interest of the Filipino public above all else.

JESSICA A. SOHO
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Outstanding Broadcast Journalist

Voice from the frontline

Working round the clock, from the studio or from the remotest region where the fainthearted dare not go, Jessica Soho brings to millions of television viewers the news for the day… live. Her brand of broadcast journalism - comprehensive, credible and insightful - has set the tone for television news reporting in the country today. Award-winning reporter, writer, host, producer, Jessica Soho's public affairs programs in her home station are currently paving the way for the Filipino public to fully appreciate good broadcast journalism on television.

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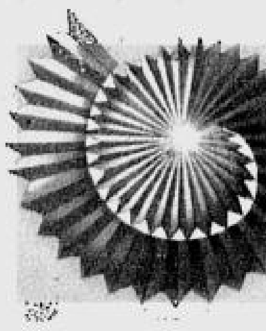

The Outstanding Journalist's Medallion

The Spiral, a fundamentally dynamic design incorporating movement, tracks the sun's movement in the heavens, where light first emanates. Light, invariably symbolizing truth and wisdom, also stands for the Word, the first word, as it was created out of God's spirit. The shell, though incidental in form, aptly conveys the message of transformation to the next higher level, as light emerges from its core.

The Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Journalists Awards pay tribute to men and women whose light in the profession have shone brightly, engendering positive transformation not only in themselves, but in society as a whole.

YOU leaders say they support GMA

(From page A1)

ised the President that they would work with her administration, and even offered their services.

"We have struck an agreement there. We are going to work together for good government and reforms. (We will) make a shot at it," Cardeño said.

It was not known if the President offered them any position.

Cardeño is special assistant to retired Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, chief of the Land Transportation Office. Valeroso is special assistant to the executive director on Philippine Center on Transnational Crimes.

'We know these guys'

Cardeño said the coup rumors were coming not only from their side.

"Insofar as we are concerned and the people we know who are doing all those things, there are no (coup attempts)," he said. "They're just capable of doing trouble, that's all. We know these guys and I think they know us also. And they know they can't convince us."

Asked who he was referring to, Cardeño said: "You know these guys, (they are the ones) who get aggrieved because they're being investigated."

Valeroso said National Security Adviser Roilo Golez was "looking at other angles we are not aware of."

He said the coup rumors were fanned by the 60-day "ultimatum" that their group issued on Aug. 17 to urge the administration to fulfill its promise of good government.

"It was not an ultimatum, just a reference point when we can assess where we are now after 60 days," Valeroso said. "Some sectors maybe mistook it. Maybe you are aware there are two factions measuring each other. Last Oct. 17, the (coup) rumors got worse."

He did not elaborate.

Earlier in the day, Cardeño gave various interviews saying that the President was not the enemy of YOU, which, he said, was in full support of her administration.

But he said: "I felt betrayed. I went (to Camp Crame) on my own and in good faith, only to be detained without knowing what for and for how long."

Other people

More persons may be invited to the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame for questioning in connection with the coup rumors.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza hinted at this yesterday morning after investigators questioned Cardeño.

"We are also inviting some (other) people," Mendoza told a broadcast reporter. "Our counter-intelligence operations are ongoing. That is part of our monitoring activities."

Apparently, those who will be invited are those whose names appear in counter-intelligence reports on the supposed coup plot.

As it is, another one of the so-called "usual suspects" when it came to coup rumors reportedly received a call from the President last Wednesday.

Sources said the President phoned Army Col. Marcelino "Jake" Malajacan and asked him if he was involved in any plot to topple her administration.

"He assured the President that he has no hand in the reported coup plot," a source said.

But Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, said this was "not true."

Another source said Malajacan was the unnamed colonel whom National Security Adviser Roilo Golez referred to on Wednesday as the one who trained the shadowy armed group Urban Poor Liberation Front.

But at a briefing in Malacañang yesterday, Golez ignored the question of whether he was indeed referring to Malajacan when he spoke of a colonel who trained about 50 UPLF members in paramilitary skills in Angat, Bulacan.

Malajacan was the same officer captured by the then Presidential Security Command and presented before national television by then President Ferdinand Marcos hours before "People Power I" broke out in February 1986.

He was the "operations officer" of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM), which staged bloody coup attempts against the administration of President Corazon Aquino.

Mendoza said Cardeño had admitted recruiting members of the YOU but denied involvement in a coup plot or destabilization campaign.

He said that while Cardeño was allowed to leave after being questioned in Camp Crame, the President ordered "further inquiry."

Disrespect

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble Jr. said Cardeño left Camp Crame around 2:30 a.m. yesterday.

By Noble's narration, Cardeño showed "disrespect" to an interrogator and his superiors during his stay in the camp.

"According to Cardeño, the President called him to see (Mendoza) to clear his name since he was being dragged in the rumors about the coup," Noble said in an interview.

Upon arrival inside the camp at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Cardeño first proceeded to Mendoza's office but the PNP chief was not around.

He then went to the office of PNP Deputy Director General Rex Piad, who instructed him to go to the headquarters of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, also inside Camp Crame.

Noble said an investigating officer whose name he did not mention was assigned to question Cardeño about his supposed involvement in the coup plot.

"From what I was told, it was all denials. Cardeño denied all questions about involvement in the plot," said Noble, director of the PNP headquarters support service.

Noble said he had not yet seen the contents of Cardeño's statement until the interview.

At one point, Noble said, Cardeño's brother-lawyer arrived to assist him. But at the end of the interrogation, Cardeño reportedly refused to sign the statement he gave the investigating officer.

"Cardeño suddenly left (the CIDG building) without permission from the investigating officer. So the officer alerted the guards stationed at the (Santolan) gate not to allow his vehicle to leave," Noble said.

It was at this point, about 1:45 a.m. Wednesday, that Noble entered the scene.

"I requested Cardeño to talk to General Piad first before leaving. But his brother, who was with him inside the vehicle, sounded like he was telling him not to go," Noble said.

Noble recalled spending around 40 minutes requesting Cardeño to alight and talk to Piad.

"I was inhaling all the smoke from his vehicle. He was inside seated while I was outside," Noble complained. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo, Martin P. Marfil, Agnes E. Donato, Juliet L. Javellana***

Lacson pins 'coup plot' on Berroya, reporter

(From page A1)

hind these reports with the end goal of pinning the blame on the opposition, particularly me," he said.

Berroya said Wednesday that Lacson was involved in the plot to stage mass protest actions designed to culminate in a so-called "Edsa 4."

"There are two reasons why Berroya is doing this," the senator said. "Either he wants (his term) to be extended as regional (police) director of Central Luzon, where he gets P3 million a month from 'jueteng operators,' or he desperately wants to be the next PNP chief."

Berroya has disclaimed interest in the top post of the Philippine National Police.

Lacson, as chief of the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, was responsible for putting Berroya in jail for the kidnapping of Taiwanese businessman Jack Chou in 1993.

But Berroya was later ordered released by the Supreme Court, which dismissed the case on a technicality.

Two others linked to the alleged coup plot yesterday denied its existence.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada, supposedly the main beneficiary of Black October, told radio station dzBB that he had no time to hatch plots to overthrow his successor because he was too busy discussing his court cases with his lawyers.

His erstwhile political adviser, Lito Banayo, wondered to the INQUIRER why his name was included in a white paper on Black October that made the rounds of Camp Crame last week.

"To think that for quite some time, (Estrada) and I were not even talking because he got hurt by my decision to resign from the Partido ng Masang Pilipino four days after his ouster from Malacañang," Banayo said in a phone interview.

A copy of the three-page white paper said Estrada planned to use the El Shaddai to stage huge rallies this month with the end view of destabilizing the administration.

But it added that the short-term objective of these rallies was to "delay the court proceedings and hearings against" the ex-President.

Lacson said it was Ilagan who had distributed copies of the white paper to Camp Crame reporters.

The INQUIRER sought Ilagan for comment but was told that he was in Tokyo.

Spin

According to Lacson, the administration's "spin doctors" employed the same tactic when Misamis Oriental Rep. Augusto Baculio delivered a privilege speech on Mr. Arroyo's alleged involvement in the telecommunications deal last August.

At that time, Lacson said, he was used to shift public attention from the matter through the leak of information to the media regarding his alleged dollar accounts abroad.

Mr. Arroyo, however, said Lacson "must be dreaming." He said the senator was "obviously getting desperate to cover up the real issues."

He described as "totally irrational" Lacson's statement that the persistent coup rumors were meant to divert public attention from the accusations he was facing before the Senate.

"The senator's illogical opinion applies to himself and not to me. And why would we start coup rumors? Why would we destabilize our own administration?" Mr. Arroyo said in a statement.

He also said he had appeared twice before the Senate blue ribbon committee looking into the telecommunications deal, while Lacson had shown up only once at the Senate probe of the senator's alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade, and only after several hearings.

Lacson dismissed the supposed coup plot as a product of Berroya's "wild imagination."

He said Berroya was "bootlicking" by attempting to protect the First Gentleman from the public eye in the course of the investigations.

Busy

"I am too busy with my cases to even think of plotting against the government," Estrada said in Filipino. "I have no time for such things. Yes, it is true that some of my Cabinet secretaries visit me in the hospital, but when we meet, it is only to discuss the economy and how it can be improved."

Estrada faces plunder and perjury suits before the Sandiganbayan, one of the venues being targeted in the supposed rallies to be organized by El Shaddai.

The ex-President took the opportunity to give his successor unsolicited advice: "Perhaps this is the time to gather all the good economists, draw from their wealth of knowledge, and find solutions to our economic problems."

But he assured President Macapagal-Arroyo that he had no interest now in seeking any government position.

"I have no plans of running, and I hope they realize that in due time," he said.

No misunderstanding

Banayo, on the other hand, denied that he and PMP spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla had a falling out with Lacson's group over financial support for Estrada's supporters at the height of "Edsa Tres."

The white paper alleged that the "misunderstanding" between the Lacson group and Banayo and Remulla occurred during a meeting in Puerto Azul resort in Cavite last September.

"The last time I was in Puerto Azul was during the time of Marcos, either the late '70s or the early '80s. I was there to jetski," Banayo said.

"And I hardly saw Remulla (after Estrada stepped down). Perhaps two or three times we were together in 'Debate,' the GMA talk show, at the invitation of Oscar Orbos. How can we hatch a coup plot if we don't see each other? These are all rumors," he added.

While Remulla is talking of an alleged coup plot, even his own brother in Congress is not inclined to believe it.

Neophyte Rep. Gilbert Remulla (Cavite, LDP) expressed hope that what his eldest brother had been saying was not true.

"It could be plausible but I hope it's not true. Our country does not need it at this time so the most that I can do is to appeal that these rumors stop," the congressman said.

Asked if he planned to make the appeal to his brother, the congressman said: "He has every right to say whatever he wants but I am not privy (to his sources)."

Talking

And Remulla is still talking.

Yesterday he said the Philippine Consultative Assembly's 30-day deadline for President Macapagal to improve her governance was part of the destabilization plot by her own allies.

Remulla said a clique composed of influential personalities close to former President Fidel Ramos was behind the PCA call for Ms Macapagal's resignation if she failed to address the country's pressing problems.

Ramos, in an earlier press conference at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, distanced himself from the PCA demand, saying it was an empty threat based on an unrealistic target.

But Remulla told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that "it's all a matter of double speak."

He said the leaders of the PCA were closely connected to former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez, former National Security Adviser Jose Almonte and to Ramos.

"(The PCA's 30-day deadline) is part of the plan. That is a threat not only to the President but (also) to the country's national security," he said.

Remulla said the PCA deadline for the President "to start shaping up" set the perception that she had failed to fulfill the promises she made during her inaugural speech and State of the Nation Address, including the effective and speedy prosecution of Estrada.

"The PCA should not have issued that statement because the President is already the President. Nothing can change that anymore, and we should just wait for 2004. The President should not allow herself to be blackmailed," Remulla said.

Ramos was unavailable for comment.

Remulla also denied Berroya's charge that he and other members of the opposition were involved in plotting against the government.

"Who is the veteran of two coup attempts? Berroya was there at Edsa I and he was also there at Edsa II. I don't know anything about coups. I am only a lawyer," Remulla said.

Another member of the opposition, Sen. Edgardo Angara, said the alleged coup plot was "pure fiction."

Angara also said the opposition had no plan, desire and capability to mount a coup against the government.

"The rumors of coup plots can only come from enemies within, from allies of the administration who have to resort to alarmist scenarios to cover up for their poor governance," he said.

Grudge

Reynaldo Wycoco, director of the National Bureau of Investigation, dismissed the supposed coup plot as a mere episode in the long-running grudge match between Berroya and Lacson.

He said the government had yet to receive a report of a credible security threat to the administration.

"*Nagbabalibagan lang yung dalawa* (The two are just slugging it out)," Wycoco said when asked why Berroya spoke about the alleged Black October.

He said Berroya might just be turning the tables on the opposition, which had linked his name to the supposed coup plot.

Wycoco pointed out that the indicators of a possible coup—unusual troop movements, popular discontent—were absent.

"We (in the government) haven't talked about (the coup rumors in our meetings) because we don't believe them. We don't take them seriously," he said.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Teddy Casiño also downplayed the coup rumors, saying the factions in Malacañang were just fighting for concessions from the President.

"They are floating the rumors just to get concessions. We think some vested interests in the military are behind these," Casiño told the INQUIRER at Mendiola, where around 3,000 militant workers assembled to press their demand for a P125 across-the-board wage increase.

"The administration is vulnerable because the President is easily rattled," he said.

In Malacañang, the President's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said that while it was true that the administration had been receiving reports of destabilization plans, it did not see any threat of a coup. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora, Philip C. Tubeza, Carlito Pablo and Juliet L. Javellana***

GMA: Ebdane is next PNP chief

BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she needed to see proof that a coup plot was indeed afoot.

"As President, I must be shown proof before I believe in that kind of rumors," she told reporters on this famous island-resort where she inaugurated infrastructure projects.

The President also dismissed the allegations of Partido ng Masang Pilipino spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla that Philippine National Police officials were involved in a plot code-named "Black October," and that it was aimed at allowing Central Luzon police director Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya to take the top PNP post.

According to the President, Berroya cannot be angling for that post because he knows that the next PNP chief will be Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane.

Among those linked by the PMP to the supposed plot was former President Fidel Ramos, who, Ms Macapagal noted, was "very angry when he denied this on TV."

Travel bans imperil . . .

(From page A1)

many tourism-related businesses would close shop next year unless the travel advisories were lifted.

Sad-faced owners and managers of hotels, airlines, travel and tour agencies belonging to the FTIP met at the Hotel Pan Pacific in Manila to discuss the effects of the Travel Advisory Level 2 imposed by the Japanese government on Oct. 8.

They are closing their shops this afternoon to picket the Japanese Embassy in Pasay City to ask Tokyo to recall its travel advisory.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, keynote speaker in the FTIP meeting, described the travel advisory as "unreasonable, unfriendly, and unwise."

He shared the observation of some Japanese participants in the meeting that the advisory was the work of "bureaucrats."

Gordon said the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) had already issued a diplomatic note regarding the matter.

He said a diplomatic protest should be issued if Tokyo refused to heed the appeal for the recall of its travel advisory.

Clemente said the tourism industry in the country was "not only hurting but reaching crisis proportions."

Tourist arrivals from Japan have dropped 70 to 75 percent because of the advisory, according to Clemente.

This year, the number of Japanese tourists was earlier estimated at 385,000, about 20 percent of the total tourist arrivals.

If each Japanese visitor spends $100 a day and stays an average of 2.5 days, $96.3 million or P4.9 billion in revenues will be generated.

Marilen Sandejas-Yaptangco of the Baron Travel Corp. said the Philippines would be excluded from brochures issued by Japanese wholesale travel agencies for the spring-summer (April to September) travel season if the "travel ban" was not lifted by the next month.

Yaptangco said tour operators would have to let go of as much as 70 percent of their personnel.

"All of us will lose not only revenues and talented manpower," she said. "We will lose a culture—a culture of tourism."

Felix Cruz, president of the Board of Airline Representatives, said Philippine Airlines (PAL) flights to Japan had dropped from 23 to 17 a month.

Cruz, PAL's vice president for marketing support, said the reduction of flights from Cebu to Tokyo and Osaka would cost PAL about P3.2 million a month.

"This cannot go on forever. No company has pockets that are deep," said Richard Wiley, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts area manager for the Philippines.

Gordon and FTIP members said it was unfair that the Philippines was included in Japan's list of Level 2 countries, such as Syria, Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Uzbekistan and Iran.

If the Japanese government was really concerned for its citizens, why did it not issue a travel advisory for the United States, especially in Washington D.C. and New York, because of the anthrax scare? Gordon asked.

He noted that there were no Japanese advisories issued to Spain and Sri Lanka, where separatist movements are active.

"The Level-2 advisory on the Philippines will make Japan look scared and the terrorists feel good," he said.

Heroic cop left 5 kids . . .

(From page A1)

was not really sure whether it was he," the 45-year-old housewife said in Filipino.

De Leon went on with her chores, not fully concentrating as she listened to further updates about the encounter. The mother of five said she was with her youngest child, 5-year-old Lalaine Marie, when another update was flashed onscreen.

This time, the reporter got the name right. SPO4 Edmundo de Leon was slain in the encounter between the police and a kidnap group that had abducted a Chinese mother, her son and their driver.

De Leon was with a team of policemen and operatives of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force who raided a suspected hideout of the so-called Esting gang in San Francisco del Monte.

Members of the kidnap gang had rained automatic gunfire on the first raiding team, which included De Leon and his 24-year-old son, Ulysses, a rookie policeman.

Witnesses said that the elder De Leon tried to protect his son by shielding him.

Philippine National Police Deputy Director Hermogenes Ebdane said SPO4 De Leon, was fatally shot on the chest. He was only 49.

Murder charges were filed yesterday against the four members of the Esting kidnap gang arrested in the raid with no bail recommended by the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

The kidnap-for-ransom syndicate's leader, Ramon Go, who managed to escape, was also included in the charge sheet which the Central Police District (CPD) said was the first in a string of criminal charges to be filed against the gang.

When Lilia de Leon first heard the shattering news, "I was looking at my daughter. 'Your father is gone,' I told her. 'What do you mean?,' my baby asked. 'Did he leave us? Is he dead? Is he asleep?' It was very hard to accept. I cannot believe that he is gone," De Leon said.

De Leon was sitting a few pews away from her husband's white coffin inside the mortuary of the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame when some reporters arrived.

The shy and soft-spoken widow simply stared at the reporters as they asked their questions. One female journalist asked her to move closer to the camera, away from the bright light of the window where she sat.

"I want to stay here, in this corner," she said in her soft voice but the reporter prevailed.

"He does not like the media, you know. There have been many operations he took part in, but never did he consent to an interview," she told the INQUIRER in particular.

Eldest child LenLen, 26, said their father probably wanted to be careful not to be recognized as a police officer. "Maybe he didn't want the crime syndicates to remember his face. We are already poor. It would be more difficult if they would be after him," she said.

"A great loss to the Philippine National Police," Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said of De Leon, who was a member of the Intelligence and Investigation Services of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

De Leon was promoted posthumously by PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza "for gallantry in action."

Lina said that President Macapagal herself will hand over to De Leon's widow his award "together with all the benefits deserved by an SPO4."

Lina also said that De Leon's dependents will be provided free education.

The NCRPO has already given De Leon's family P120,000 as financial assistance

Another P100,000 was reportedly given to the De Leons by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese chambers of Commerce and Industry.

And the family the heroic cop left behind needs every centavo it can get.

His widow said her husband's take home had been reduced to P2,000 a month since he had been paying for a housing loan which he took out several months ago.

"There is a housing program in San Diego, Taguig. So he applied for a unit. He had paid several installments already of P2,350 per month but the terms said 25 years to pay. Of course, we cannot pay anymore. I hope the government shows mercy and allows us to take the unit despite the huge balance," De Leon said.

De Leon tends a small *sari-sari* store to help make ends meet. With her husband gone and five children to look after, the widow needs all the help she can get.

Lina said De Leon's valor should motivate the men in uniform to double their efforts to combat criminal gangs.

Kidnapping charges were also set to be filed last night against the kidnap suspects, according to Chief Insp. Rodolfo Jaraza, chief of the CPD criminal investigation unit-homicide division.

CIU investigators led by SPO3 Roger Yalong were already consolidating affidavits of the kidnap group's victims and other pieces of evidence.

Following the suspects' arrest the other day, a number of victims in their kidnap-for-ransom activities reportedly signified willingness to submit evidence against the group, CPD officials said.

CPD director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor expressed optimism the suspects would be convicted of the crimes they are charged with, citing "overwhelming prima facie evidence meticulously prepared and consolidated" by investigators.

US urged to finish off Taliban . . .

(From page A1)

The Northern Alliance is also fighting to dislodge the Taliban from the northeastern town of Taloqan to open up urgently needed supply routes.

"God willing, we will capture Mazar-e-Sharif and Taloqan and the way (to supply routes) will be opened," Fazel Ahmad Azimi, the governor and military commander of the Kapisa district northeast of Kabul, said Thursday.

He said that the Northern Alliance—in dire need of ammunition, fuel and the most basic necessities, including food—was rushing to get in supplies before winter cut off transport.

The alliance is also building an airstrip in Kapisa province, which borders Kabul district. Azimi said it should be completed by the end of the week.

"It's our main problem. We don't have enough supplies," said Gul Mohammad, a commander at the frontline in Bagram. "If our stomachs were full, we could capture Kabul easily."

Azimi said the alliance was planning to launch simultaneous offensives.

"We will start the attacks against the Taliban in the cities of Mazar, Taloqan and Kabul at the same time," he said.

Mazar-e-Sharif lies northwest of Kabul, while Taloqan is directly north of the capital.

Fighting to the last

Taliban Education Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, however, told Reuters Television that the US air raids, which began on Oct. 7, had inflicted some damage, but the Taliban remained defiant.

Muttaqi said the Taliban militiamen were battle-hardened after fighting the Soviet occupation between 1979 and 1989. About 17,000 Soviet troops were killed during the Afghan war.

If American troops entered Afghanistan's rugged terrain, they would suffer huge casualties, he warned.

"Their casualties will be higher than the Russians because Americans are people of pleasure and comfort compared to the Russian people," Muttaqi said.

"It is true that their technology is more advanced than ours but as long as one Muslim Afghan is alive he will not surrender to America," he said.

Tough warriors

In Washington, Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem told a news conference that he was surprised at the Taliban's staying power.

"They are proven to be tough warriors," Stufflebeem said. "I'm a bit surprised at how doggedly they're hanging onto power."

In another interview, however, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld predicted the Taliban regime would be toppled but added the United States might not be able to capture Bin Laden.

"Yes, I think there will be a post-Taliban Afghanistan," Rumsfeld told USA Today. "That is easier than finding a single person."

Rumsfeld told the newspaper it would be "very difficult" to capture or kill Bin Laden.

"It's a big world," he said. "There are lots of countries. He's got a lot of money, he's got a lot of people who support him and I just don't know whether we'll be successful. Clearly, it would be highly desirable to find him."

But he said Bin Laden's terrorist network would carry on without him. "If he were gone tomorrow, the same problem would exist."

Rumsfeld has said repeatedly that rooting out terrorism is a long-term project that will last for years.

Tribal meeting

In Pakistan, a gathering of Afghan leaders demanded that "those foreigners who add more to our miseries" leave the country—a reference to Bin Laden and the mostly Arab members of his al-Qaida terrorist group.

"They should not exploit any longer the hospitality of Afghans," said the resolution passed after the two-day Conference for Peace and National Unity.

The all-male conclave endorsed the resolution in a *jirga*, or traditional meeting, after filing into Nishtar Hall in the northwestern city of Peshawar near the Afghan border.

Their one-page resolution outlined what they called the building blocks for a new government that could help rebuild Afghanistan. Among their points:

- Afghanistan's former king, Mohammad Zaher Shah, in exile in Rome since 1973, should join other eminent Afghan figures to play an "effective role, according to his moderate and balanced policy, to put an end to this crisis."
- The "warring parties of Afghanistan and USA" should "end their operations as early as possible"—including the "very important" task of disarming Kabul.
- Political activity to devise a new government should replace military activity.
- A grand council should be convened to decide the future of Afghanistan.

The resolution did not directly advocate the fall of the Taliban regime, although members of the conference agreed that was a key goal before a new government could be formed.

The participants, largely from southern Afghan tribes with monarchist sympathies, were trying to prevent what they called "a political vacuum" that could ensue if the US-led military strikes unseated the Taliban. ***Reports from AP, AFP, and Reuters***

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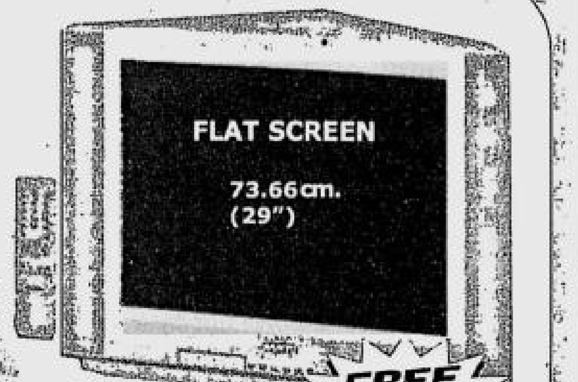

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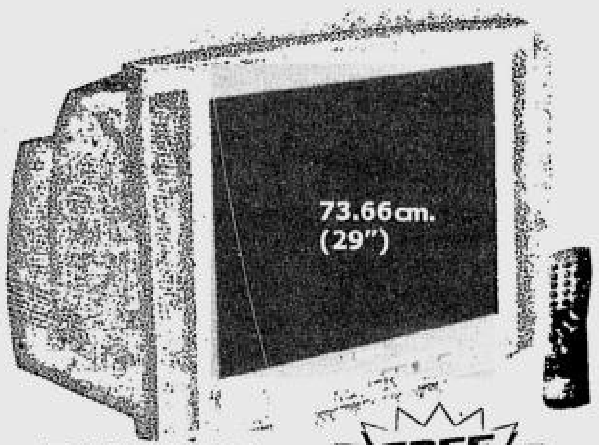

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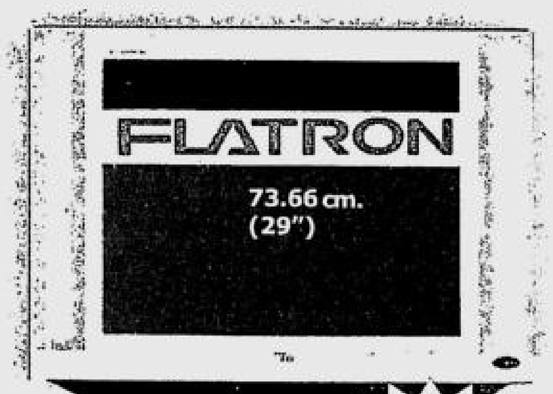

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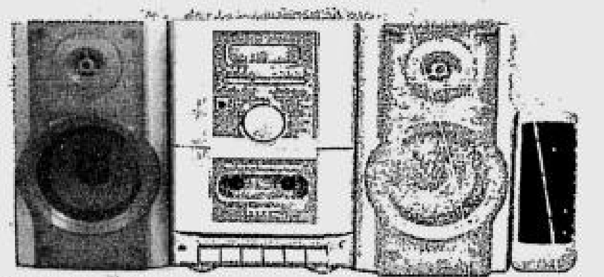

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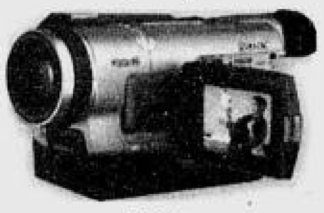

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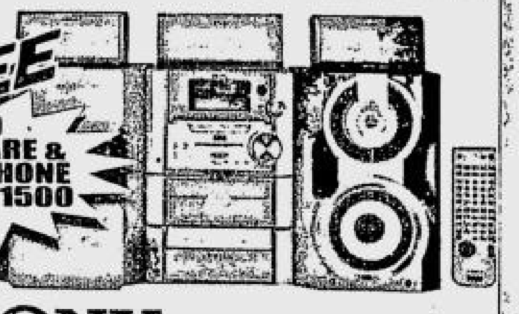

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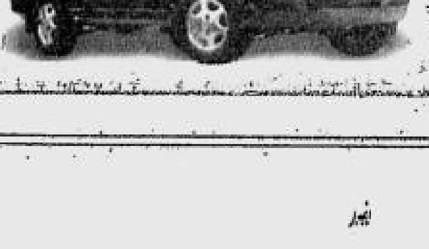

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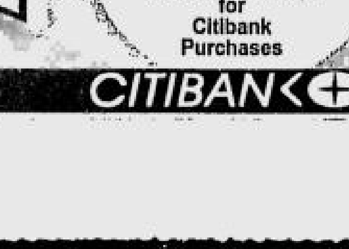

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Kidnapper says gov't paid P30M for release of Chinese hostage

(From page A1)

Central Mindanao.

Zhongqiang and Xue Xing were later killed when they tried to flee during a military rescue operation. Wang Shengli was wounded in the encounter but was rescued when he played dead.

Government negotiators recently worked out the release of a Filipino guide, Edwin Lim.

The Chinese government had sought the assistance of Malaysia and Libya in securing the release of the hostages. Malaysia and Libya then asked the MILF to contact the Pentagon gang.

On Saturday, President Macapagal-Arroyo said in Shanghai, where she attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, that the appeal of Zhang's relatives and Chinese diplomats prompted her administration to enter into negotiations with the kidnappers.

Ms Macapagal said "rapport with religious elders, family elders and even international friends, who have helped in the past, were tapped."

But no ransom was paid, according to Libyan Ambassador Salem.

In the past, hostages held by Moro kidnappers were freed in exchange for "livelihood assistance" or "boarding fees," euphemisms for ransom payments.

Marohombsar said Pentagon was neither an ally of the MILF nor responsible for a series of kidnappings in Central Mindanao.

MILF fund-raising group

He did not categorically say that the MILF was engaged in kidnapping to raise funds. But he identified fugitive Tahir Alonto as the head of an MILF special operations group tasked with raising funds.

Kabalu dismissed Marohombsar's allegations as part of the Pentagon gang's black propaganda aimed at destroying the image of the MILF.

The Pentagon gang is also accused of kidnapping Pierantoni, the 44-year-old assistant parish priest of Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur.

But Marohombsar said MILF field commanders Kiddy and Ramsy, who are based in Zamboanga del Sur, were responsible for Pierantoni's abduction.

Atutubo said the ransom demand for the Italian priest's release came from the group of Commander Tangkay, which is keeping Pierantoni in Maguindanao.

"But this is still raw information which is being verified by our people," Atutubo said.

Pierantoni was snatched by at least 10 suspects after saying Mass on the evening of Oct. 17.

Two negotiators tasked by the government with establishing contact with the kidnappers told the INQUIRER that they would not entertain any demand from the kidnappers "unless we can already ascertain the condition of the priest."

The negotiators, who are both close to Marohombsar, said they were surprised by the ransom demand, as it was never part of an earlier discussion with the kidnap group.

Emissaries

They said they met with the emissaries of the kidnappers on Wednesday in Lanao del Sur.

At the meeting, they asked for assurance that Pierantoni not be harmed.

Contrary to military claims, Pierantoni is already in Maguindanao, a ranking police official in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao said.

The official said they found no indication that the victim was brought to Maguindanao.

"There is no sign at all that they've brought the Italian priest in Maguindanao area," said Chief Supt. Acmad Omar, autonomous region police chief, who is based in Parang, Maguindanao.

He said that as of press time, his men were scouring the coastal areas of Maguindanao "and even Lanao del Sur" with the help of the Marines and the Philippine Army "but we've found no sign at all."

Based on a detailed intelligence report, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, the kidnappers ferried Pierantoni onboard a twin-engine boat to Sitio Maganding, Barangay Tuka in Sultan Gumander, Lanao del Sur.

Commander Ramsy

The priest, the report said, was briefly kept in a house near the coast, while some of the gunmen led by Norhan Amil, alias Commander Ramsy, proceeded to Barangay Bunker in Malabang town to refuel.

Sultan Gumander and Malabang towns are 15 minutes apart by sea craft.

From Barangay Bunker, the boat reportedly returned to Sitio Maganding then brought the priest to Bongo Island near Parang town, where Commander Ustadz Ali Acas, operations chief of the MILF, met them.

From Bongo Island the kidnappers again moved toward Sitio Kidama in Matanog, where Marohombsar's first wife stayed, and disappeared toward the hinterlands.

Another intelligence report, however, gave another version.

In the second report, also prepared by the military, Pierantoni was brought to an undisclosed hideout of the Pentagon gang between Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat provinces.

Atutubo said both reports were being verified. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

'Nowhere man': It is as though I don't exist

(From page A1)

French, Italian and Latin, or where he had cultivated his love of opera, his aversion to meat.

Even today, all he knows is what doctors and linguists have told him: that he is suffering from global amnesia, that he speaks with a distinctive British accent, possibly from Yorkshire, that once he was somebody.

But who?

A photograph taken after the mugging, shows a young man, probably in his late 20s, with, dyed blonde hair, a round face, prominent nose and dark eyes. He is 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds.

The man's photograph and fingerprints were circulated around the world. Television programs in Britain documented his plight, although there has been little coverage in the United States. Interpol and international missing persons organizations investigated. Still they have no leads.

He wants to go to England to see if he can find himself, or maybe confront some shadows of his past. Surely, he argued in court, the least a man deserves is the chance to reclaim his identity.

But society has no place for a man without a name. And it doesn't make provisions for a man without a country.

He cannot travel without a passport. He cannot get a passport without a birth certificate. And he cannot get a birth certificate without knowing where he was born.

In limbo

So, the man the British media dubbed "Mr. Nobody" lives in limbo, reading Latin verse in a public library, or holed up in a dingy rooming house on Vancouver's east side, growing increasingly paranoid and depressed.

He refuses to talk about his plight anymore. He shuns further media coverage, saying it portrays him as a freak—fascinating only because he cannot prove who he is, or who he is not.

"I am stateless. It is as though I don't exist," he said in court. "My life is senseless. I can hardly sleep at all. As I cannot work and provide for my material and spiritual needs or leave the country, I consider myself a prisoner; therefore, I am kindly asking to be set free."

The freedom he sought was the creation of an identity, complete with a birth certificate and a name, one that would allow him to leave Canada in search of himself. The name he asked for was Philip Staufen.

That is the name that appeared on his plastic wristband in Toronto General Hospital where he was first treated. It had a birth date of June 7, 1975.

He said that after repeatedly telling hospital staff he didn't know who he was, he was pressed to give the first name that came into his head. So he blurted out Philip Staufen—the name of a medieval German king and Holy Roman Emperor.

Police have tracked people with similar names all over Europe and found no connection to the mystery man. No one has been issued with a British passport in that name.

So Mr. Nobody lives in a vacuum, haunted by a past he cannot remember and a future he cannot plan.

"My actual situation has left me prey to too many abuses and humiliations," he said in court. "I have found myself having to live on the streets or with violent and vulgar people."

The judges were sympathetic, but they denied his "application for identity," declaring that they could not create a legal fiction by giving him a birth certificate.

However, he did eventually win a federal ministerial permit that allows him to live and work in Canada for 18 months. It was issued in the name of Philip Staufen.

Still no passport

But, with no passport, Staufen still can't leave the country. And it's not clear what happens after the 18 months are up in December 2002. Under normal circumstances, people may apply for Canadian citizenship after living in the country for three years. But the application form requires a name and birthplace.

At first Staufen rejected the ministerial permit, saying if the system could allow him to use the name for 18 months, it could grant him a passport in that name, too. He went on hunger strike for a week in protest.

"What I want is to be given an identity," he said. "I want to be able to leave Canada. I want to be anonymous and to live my life in peace."

No one who has dealt with Staufen doubts his story. Not the police who investigated his case, doctors who treated him, the people who temporarily took him into their homes, government workers who tried to help him. All see no hint of deception or fraud.

Mind-boggling

"It just seemed mind-boggling that someone could be so alone in the world and no one seems to be looking for him," said Stephen Bone, a Toronto detective who spent days with Staufen trying to find clues to his identity.

Bone brought Staufen to a linguist, drove him to a homeless shelter, helped him buy groceries, won his trust. The detective watched as the man with no memory discovered clues about himself: that he took milk and sugar with his tea, that he didn't like meat, that he loved to read.

Initially, Bone said, Staufen believed it was a matter of time before detectives unlocked his identity. With money from supporters, Staufen traveled to Montreal, and then Vancouver, where he found a lawyer, Manuel Azevedo, who took up his cause. He was given welfare assistance of $525 a month.

But as time dragged on, Staufen became frustrated and withdrawn. He questioned images in his head: Were they pieces of his past, or something he had read?

Once he asked Bone: What if I have a past that I don't want to remember?

"I feel very sorry for him," Bone said. "The thought of a human being having no identity and no one to turn to. It's almost like if you don't have a name you are nothing."

Only a handful of cases of total amnesia have ever been documented. With treatment, most patients eventually recognized, or "relearned" pieces of their past. And recovery usually happened within months.

Fugue state

Because Staufen is still suffering after two years, some psychiatrists suggest he may be suffering from a psychogenic "fugue" state—a memory disorder in which he has blocked out an incident too awful to remember.

There have been other such cases. In the 1980s there was a widely reported case of a woman who had wandered the streets of New Orleans for years not knowing who she was or where she came from. With help, she rediscovered her past: as a wife and mother in Boston. After suffering a series of tragedies involving her children, her mind had simply blocked out the wrenching memories.

But recovery requires treatment.

In the case of the woman in New Orleans, a priest finally helped her get proper treatment. This summer, The Vancouver Sun urged the Canadian government to intervene in the Staufen case, by making a one-time exception to the rules, and granting him a birth certificate and passport.

"It is inexcusable for the governments to continue to do nothing," the newspaper wrote. "That amounts to, by default, allowing bureaucratic inertia to destroy this man's chance for a decent life."

Others suggest that Staufen hasn't done enough to help himself. They question why he doesn't pursue treatment, why he doesn't seek more publicity, why his lawyer refuses to comment anymore.

"Legally, he has obtained a lot," said Jeffrey Loenen, a Victoria lawyer who represented British Columbia in the case against Staufen.

"He is perfectly free to leave the country, if he can find a country that will take him."

But what country will welcome a man with no name, no past, no apparent future?

Camus character

Dr. David Arciniegas, director of neuropsychiatry service at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, suggests that amnesiacs are like characters from an Albert Camus novel, burdened by the weight and absurdity of their own existence.

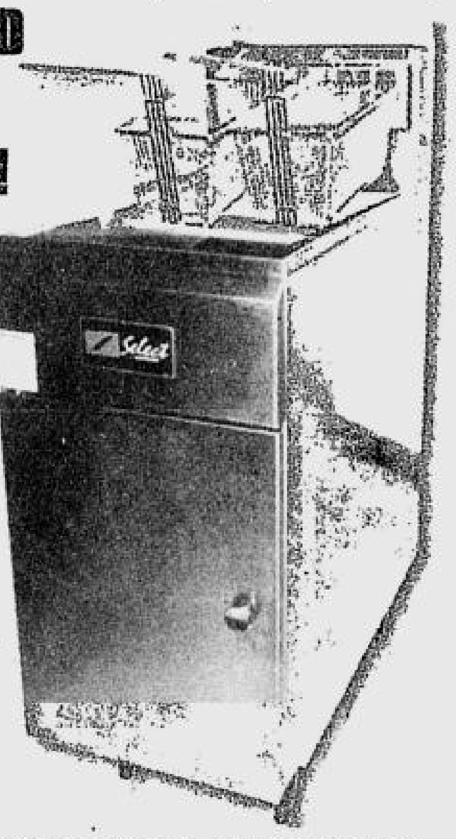
Their struggle to survive in a world that is neither understanding nor forgiving can have devastating effects on their personalities and mental health.

"There is only the present," Arciniegas said. "And the present can be unbearable without a past to define it."

For Staufen, there appears little chance that the present will change, or that his past will be defined anytime soon.

"My daily existence has been under the dominion of destitution, illness, ignorance, violence, abuse, insult and homelessness," Staufen wrote in June.

"It is only a matter of time that madness or death could be added to this list." *AP*



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Jinggoy's Halloween bid bucked

(From page A1)

attend *misa de gallo* or *noche buena?*

Government prosecutors raised this possibility as they blasted Jinggoy's request for a three-day break from detention.

Facing plunder charges with his father, ousted President Joseph Estrada, Jinggoy filed a motion Wednesday asking the Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division to let him leave his suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2.

He purportedly wished to visit the graves of his maternal grandmother's grave in Iba, Zambales, and his paternal grandfather's grave in San Juan, Metro Manila.

His counsels also cited the supposed healthful benefits of such a break. Jinggoy was recently treated at the Makati Medical Center for a heart condition.

In an opposition filed yesterday, the prosecutors said the anti-graft court should junk the request for its "sheer absurdity" unless the anti-graft court wanted to set a precedent for such "unheard of privilege" to all jail inmates.

"Once customs and traditions are allowed to overrule the laws and the rules on the well-established conditions of detention, the Honorable Court should also be prepared to let out the accused Estradas, and other detainees for that matter, for the observance of other Filipino customs and traditions" like those of the Yuletide, Lent, etc., the prosecutors said.

Overall Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio said the motion was part of the "series of jokes" that the accused had resorted to "just like the motions to go home and to attend the swearing-in of Sen. Luisa Ejercito."

Last week, Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. granted a motion filed by Estrada's wife, Sen. Ejercito, to allow the former President to attend the anniversary of the Senate. However, Estrada later decided against it.

Gervacio observed that it had become habitual for father and son to ask for one special privilege after another to afford them temporary liberty.

"Most of their motions are capricious. Jinggoy even wanted to attend a *despedida* party for him and the formal turnover (of his post as mayor he was vacating) in San Juan," Gervacio said.

For his part, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said: "The mere fact that the court allowed them to stay in a luxurious hospital suite instead of jail is already a great privilege, yet they want to push their luck some more."

Desierto pointed out that the Estradas were again "baiting" the anti-graft court, "so that if it denies this motion, they can again say that the third division magistrates are oppressing them."

He noted that defense lawyers kept filing numerous motions this month while claiming that they could not attend Estrada's hearings because of tight schedule.

The court should now consider this an act of "deceit" on the part of the Estrada lawyers, according to Desierto.

The prosecutors filed a motion late Wednesday asking that the hearings be held in the morning and in the afternoon.

"This prosecution's motion to have daylong hearings should be taken for what it is: sheer grandstanding in hopes of deceiving the public of how dedicated it is, which should deceive no one," Estrada counsel Rene Saguisag said

"The *pahanga* (grandstanding) motion will mean neglecting and delaying all other cases just because what is important to the prosecution is what attracts media attention," Saguisag said in a manifestation.

The Supreme Court only allows hearings "only in the morning or in the afternoon" because judges and other court personnel have allotted time to write decisions or transcribe notes, according to Saguisag.

At best, he added, the plunder hearings should be held "once a week," considering the Sandiganbayan's "clogged docket."

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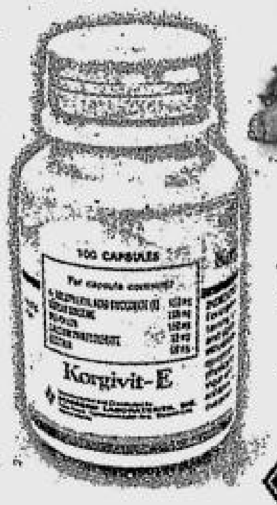

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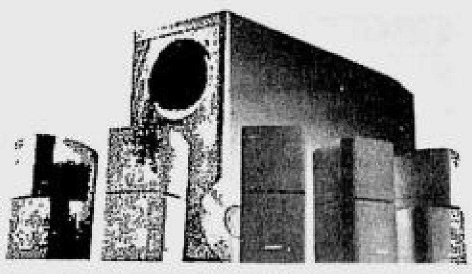

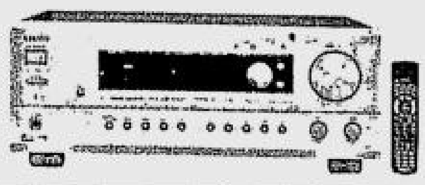

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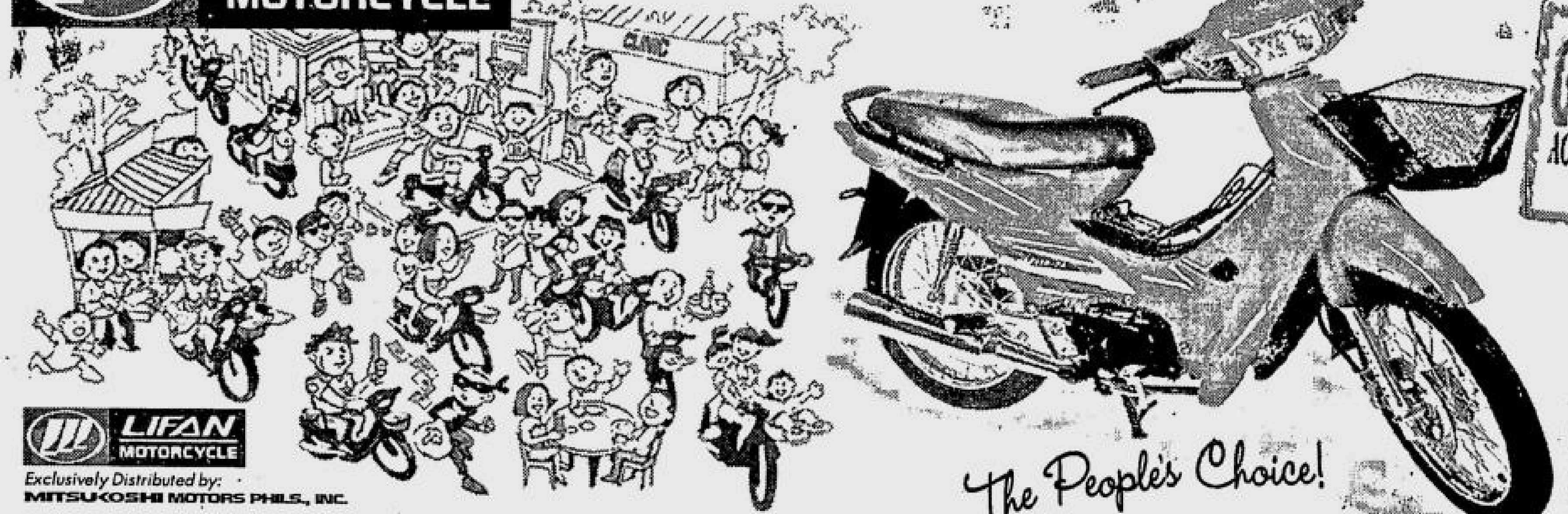

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Realtors battle Aces; Beermen take on Pals

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports Arena)
5:05 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Alaska
7:10 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Talk N' Text

BY DENNIS EROA

MENDOZA

WITH Damien Owens still saddled with a court case, pacesetter Sta. Lucia Realty resumes its campaign as it tackles slumping Alaska today in the PBA Governors Cup eliminations at the Philsports Arena.

The Realtors are trying to wiggle Owens out of his predicament with an out-of-court settlement, but in the meantime, they need to bounce back by beating the Aces as the race for the twice-to-beat privileges in the eight-team quarterfinals sizzles.

In spite of his offcourt woes, Owens has played deadly as ever and will again take charge as Sta. Lucia meets Alaska at 5:05 p.m. Talk N' Text, which battles defending champion San Miguel Beer at 7:10 p.m., shares leadership with Sta. Lucia with a 7-2 card.

Owens was charged with acts of lasciviousness by former beauty queen Colette Glazer. Glazer's friend, Vicente Jose Campa also charged the import with physical injuries for an altercation which happened at Where Else Disco in Hotel Intercontinental recently.

The Realtors always find themselves on the losing side whenever hotshot Paolo Mendoza fails to finish in double figures. The 1999 top draft pick failed to hit the target as Sta. Lucia bowed to Mobiline and Red Bull, respectively.

The soft-spoken Mendoza, a former University of the Philippines stalwart , will be tested by the swarming Alaska defense, as he orchestrates Sta. Lucia's fluid offense.

Twin Towers Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino will force their way to the middle against an Alaska team which leans heavily on Kenneth Duremdes.

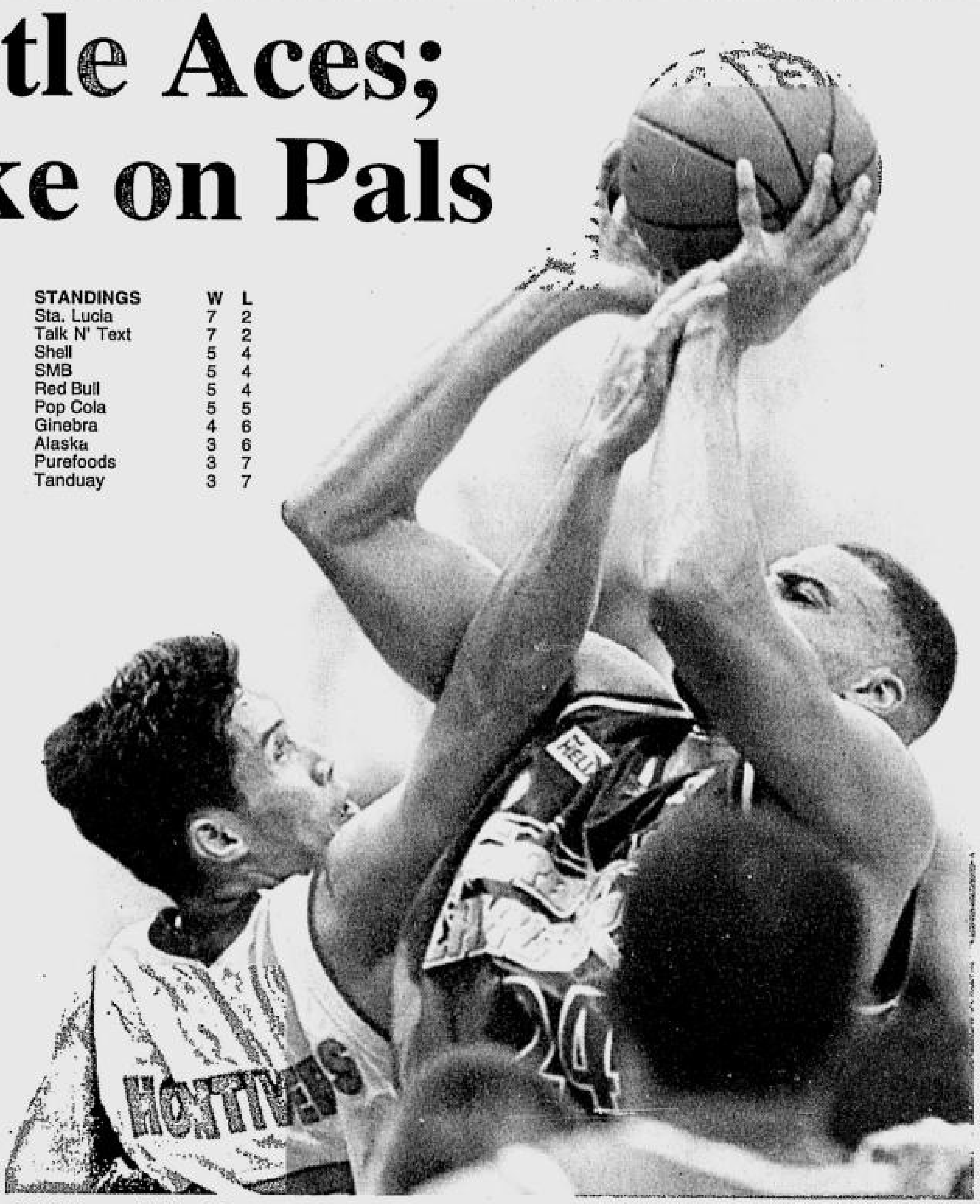
Sta. Lucia is aiming to make only its second finals appearance in franchise history and finishing in the top two spots in the quarterfinals will be a big boost. The semifinals will be a best-of-five affair.

Veteran Todd Bernard has replaced prolific import Brandon Williams as the Phone Pals clash with the Lamont Strothers-led Beermen. After a so-so start, San Miguel Beer has won its last three outings.

Williams got injured in practice. Despite the injury, coach Louie Alas because of the vastly-improved Asi Taulava and the steady shows of veteran Jerry Codinera.

Danny Seigle remains at injury bay, but San Miguel fans need not worry. Playmaker Olsen Racela, Danny Ildefonso, Nick Belasco, Freddie Abuda and Dwight Lago are playing like solid wrecking crew.

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	7	2
Talk N' Text	7	2
Shell	5	4
SMB	5	4
Red Bull	5	4
Pop Cola	5	5
Ginebra	4	6
Alaska	3	6
Purefoods	3	7
Tanduay	3	7


ASKIA Jones (right) of Shell shoots over Tanduay's Dondon Hontiveros during their game last Wednesday at the Philsports Arena. Jones erupted with 33 points but his endgame blunders spelled doom for the Turbochargers, who lost, 81-78.

ROMY HOMILLADA

LBC 5 tackles Andok's

SECOND PHASE STANDINGS		
Northern Conference	W	L
LBC Batangas	8	1
Andok's San Juan	7	1
FedEx Laguna	5	3
Nueva Ecija	2	6
Southern Conference		
Negros	7	2
Cebuana Lhuillier	4	6
Socsargen-Taguig	3	9
TPG Davao	0	8

GAMES TODAY
La Salle Lipa Sentrum
3 p.m.—TPG Davao vs Socsargen-Taguig
5:30 p.m.—Andok's San Juan vs LBC Batangas

OTHER than revenge, LBC Batangas has another motivation when it tangles with Andok's San Juan at 5:30 p.m. today in the MBA Second Phase at the La Salle Lipa Sentrum.

The Blades are also staking top spot in the Northern Conference, which they are pacing with their 8-win, 1-loss record.

Beaten by the Knights in their first meeting, 86-82, at the San Juan Gym, the Blades are dying to return the favor.

Coach Nash Racela is again expected to call on Romel Adducul, Alex Compton and Eddie Laure in the Blades' bid to beat the Knights and improve their 8-win, 1-loss record.

The Knights, however, are no easy picking.

Boasting the league's tallest lineup and oozing with talents, the Knights have ruled both the national finals and the First Phase to earn the favorite's tag.

Andok's San Juan coach Philip Cezar usually bank on explosive scorers Chris Calaguio and Bruce Dacia, ace playmaker Chito Victolero and twin towers Rafi Reavis and Omanzie Rodriguez.

In addition, the Knights can also count on Gilbert Castillo, Randy Alcantara, Danny Capobres and Kalani Ferreria.

Socsargen-Taguig targets a repeat over TPG Davao in the 3 p.m. opener.

Powered by Buboy Rodriguez, Bong Alvarez and Egay Echavez, the Marlins subdued the TPG Davao Eagles, 112-106, on Wednesday to improve to 3-9. TPG Davao has yet to win after eight starts,

MBA games are being telecast live over National Broadcasting Network 4 on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. *Roy Luarca*

Arcilla, Mora head PCA field

THE COUNTRY'S top tennis players led by Johnny Arcilla and Michael Mora III will compete in the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open slated next month at the PCA indoor courts in Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila.

The Open, which offers P100,000 to the men's singles champion, will be held on Nov. 10-18. There will be a three-day qualifying tournament starting on Nov. 6.

Events on tap in the Philta-sanctioned Group event are men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles divisions. All winners will earn 600 points.

PCA Open organizing committee chair Philip Ycasiano said players from Brunei, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea are expected to join the country's biggest and longest-running netfest.

"We have extended our invitation to these countries and we hope to get the confirmation this week. The Koreans have been our regular participants and they won all titles last year," said Ycasiano.

Registration is ongoing at the PCA office (tel. 563-8501 and 562-9278) and at the Philta office (tel. 5256434).

Deadline of entry is on Nov. 4 at 12 noon. Entry fee is P300 per division.

French ousts angry Kuerten

BASEL, Switzerland — World No. 1 Gustavo Kuerten was toppled by Frenchman Julien Boutter in straight sets in the opening round of the $ 1 million Swiss Indoors on Wednesday, extending the Brazilian's losing streak to five matches.

Kuerten, who has not won a match since reaching the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open in early August, fell 7-6 (3), 6-2 to the 67th-ranked Frenchman.

"I'm really angry about this," said the two-time French Open champion, who has won seven titles this season and currently leads the points race for the Tennis Masters Cup in Sydney next month. "I'm not able to reverse this.

In other first-round play, sixth-seeded American Andy Roddick had a similarly difficult day, needing three sets to overcome French qualifier Stephan Huet, ranked more than 200 places below him.

Kuerten needs to improve his form if he hopes to keep his lead atop the ATP Champions Race and finish the year as world No. 1 for a second consecutive year. After losing his last four matches, Kuerten has seen his lead at the top slashed to just 34 points. *AP*

Andre, Pete out

PARIS — Three tennis greats - Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and Patrick Rafter - all have withdrawn from next week's Paris Masters, event organizers said Wednesday.

Agassi, who on Monday married Steffi Graf in Las Vegas, cited "personal reasons" in pulling out of the event.

Sampras cited an injured right arm, organizers said. *AP*

Weena's world

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT'S high time sports leaders take seriously what PSC Commissioner Amparo "Weena" Lim said recently: "Self-reliance is needed to ensure the success of all sports. And tapping the private sector is one way to spell success."

During the nationwide Sports Management and Marketing Course and Lecturer's Seminar for National Sports Associations officials, Lim urged NSA leaders to assert their financial independence by soliciting the help of big corporations of goodwill and individuals of substantial means instead of depending on the government for assistance.

"There are many ways to source out funds," she explained.

The youngest commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission at 32, Lim is presently putting the final touches to her pet project, the third edition of the Batang Pinoy, a nationwide grassroots program for kids 12 years old and below. Ironically, despite its importance, a measly budget of P17 million has been earmarked to run the youth games this December in Bacolod City where some 4,000 youngsters are expected to participate.

Before she was appointed to the PSC, Weena was a teacher by profession (she was a faculty member of Poveda Learning Center, an exclusive Catholic school for girls in Quezon City from 1994 to 1996) and an athlete by avocation (she was national badminton champion who became the first Filipino athlete to qualify for the Olympics in the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Games.)

A consistent honor student at Poveda during grade school and high school days, she started her love and dedication to sports way back in 1983 when she was the most dominant figure in ladies badminton. In 1985, then promising teenagers Weena Lim, Sandy Prieto, Irene Viola and Jeannette Villanueva won the team gold medal of the Prince Asian Junior Badminton Championships in Hong Kong to give the Philippines her first international award in badminton. She graduated from the University of the Philippines in Diliman in 1992 with a Bachelor's degree, cum laude, in hotel and restaurant administration.

Weena's upbringing was not particularly lowly. She is the youngest child and only daughter of noted businessman-sportsman Jose "Dondo" Lim and former Remedios Gana. Weena has four brothers, all of them professional.

At present, Weena's world revolves the Batang Pinoy program which she envisions to serve as a venue for future talents. And to ensure its success, she told NSA officials to strengthen their marketing strategies.

"Marketing is really a big aspect," Weena said. "The NSAs should tap the private sponsors if they are to stage a truly successful event. And one way to win the support and trust of the private sponsors is for the NSAs to be specific by showing the sponsors where their donations are going and how these would be spent. Transparency is a must."

***

SORRY, BUDDY. I am sorry for not being able to attend the Vince Hizon and Francis Papica Foundations' recent press launch, marking their forthcoming activities, namely the Vince Hizon charity basketball and concert on Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Philsports Arena; the formal launching of their CD compilation entitled, "Build it Up!" under Warner Music; and the one-night performance of Martin Nievara at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel on Saturday, Nov. 10. I really missed the affair, but thanks anyway. Next time you may update me by calling telefax (044)933-1214... Best of luck to Victor Balbuena, newly-elected president of the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines, who is hosting the Rustan's-National Open at the Glorietta-Makati and at Ninoy Aquino Stadium on Dec. 5-10.

Hermoso rules racing

Final standings:
Hermoso (Standard Insurance-KACE-Toyota Alabang Petron) 174 points; 2. E. Pastor (Team TEC-Shell) 149; 3. J. Tuason (Stand Al Insurance-KACE-Toyota Alabang) 120; 4. K. Arambulo (Kart 1) 109; 5. C. Anton (Shell) 97; 6. E. Carpio (Shell) 72; 7. M. Sy (Kart Plaza-Edgesports-Red) 62; 8. J. Retoya (Shell) 26; 9. M. Borja (Shell) 22; 10. K. Ramirez (Kart 1) 8.

ROSARIO, Batangas–Roland Hermoso of Standard Insurance-KACE-Toyota Alabang-Petron became the newest toast of local motorsports when he emerged as the overall champion in the Formula Toyota Cup at the Batangas Racing Circuit here Sunday.

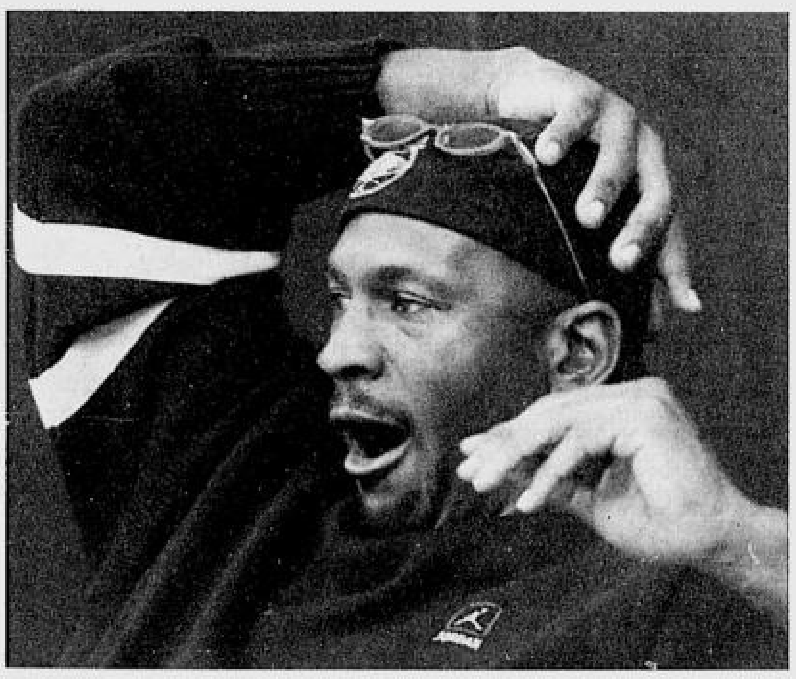
Hardly bothered by his disappointing losses in the previous month, Hermoso finished third behind Standard Insurance-KACE-Toyota Alabang teammate J.P. Tuason and Shell mainstay Carlos Anton to finally wrap up the overall championship in this annual series organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) and presented by Shell, Toyota, Kilton Motors, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro and MOF Company.

Overall, Hermoso finished with a run-away score of 174 points, 25 points ahead of Enzo Pastor of Team TEC-Shell at the end of the 12-part series also supported by Casino Filipino, CGU Insurance, Llumar, Shell Helix, Shell Velocity and Shell Citibank Mastercard.

Tuason completed a double celebration for Standard Insurance-KACE-Toyota Alabang team when he dislodged Kirk Arambulo of Kart 1 for third place with 120 points. Arambulo settled for fourth place with 109 points.

Rounding out the top 10 drivers were Anton, fifth with 97 points; Elson Carpio of Shell, sixth with 72 points; Manuel Sy of Kart 1-Edgesports-Red Racing, eighth with 62 points; Joel Retuya of Shell, ninth with 26 points; and Mandy Borja of Shell, 10th with 22 points.

Actually, Tuason submitted the worthiest performance on the final race weekend of the season, clocking 32:32.817 in finishing second to Anton in the 11th round and 34:28.029 in topping the 12th end final round.


50TH TIME AP

Washington's Michael Jordan yawns as he sits courtside following his team's practice in Toronto Wednesday. Jordan has already added to one of his many records, appearing on the cover of Sports Illustrated for the 50th time. The Oct. 29 issue, which hit newsstands Wednesday, features Jordan's return with the Washington Wizards.

Pasay derby on tonight

PASAY City Cockpit's third 4-stag derby offering for the month of October fires off at 7 tonight, with more than 60 fights on tap.

At stake is a cash prize of P30,000 in the event hosted by PCC's official stag derby screener, Manuel Polo. Entry fee is P10,000.

The first two derbies held Oct. 12 and 19 drew 29 and 34 entries respectively, and were witnessed by an overflow crowd.

Meanwhile, PCC pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano announced that there will be no derby next Friday, Nov. 2. The next cockfest is set for Nov. 9, a 4-cocker, hosted by Gonzales.

For other inquiries, please contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

RACING TIPS

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Race 1—1. Love and Kisses 2. Grand Prize 3. Machine Gun Kelly 4. Sand Splash

Race 2—1. Dedicated 2. Kontra Todo 3. Pingas 4. Dial Tone

Race 3—1. Thunder Dragon 2. Gangway 3. Cabernet 4. Doctor's Steve 5. Rindo Maker

Race 4—1. Powerhouse 2. Main Street

Race 5—1. Cash on Delivery 2. Dangerous Beauty 3. Don't Tell Me 4. Modern Classic

Race 6—1. War General 2. Perfect Gift 3. Playing With Fire 4. Defense Minister 5. Ahead of Time

Race 7—1. Commandments 2. Turkish Delight 3. Perry's Will 4. Alert One 5. Cristel Jay

Race 8—1. Little Timothy 2. Jetli 3. Sweet Topic 4. Diamond Forever

Race 9—1. Diligence 2. Double Check 3. Mystika 4. Ceasar's Inn 5. Raise A Fire 6. Be Ready

NOV. 11-12

Mayor's Cup table tennis meet slated

FOLLOWING the highly successful National Quarterly Age Group Championships, the Philippine Table Tennis Development Union Inc. holds the Mayor's Cup on Nov. 11-12.

Makati councilor Junjun Binay, also the PTTDU president, said the event will be held at the Barangay Olympia covered court in Makati City.

Results of the National Quarterly Age Group meet:

Boys 12 and under:

Champion-Michael John Brieva (Marikina), 1st Runner-up—Jayson Villanueva (Cavite TTC), 2nd Runners-up— Benito Evangelista (Amoranto), Cesjoely Carl Encarnacion

Girls 10 under and 12 under:

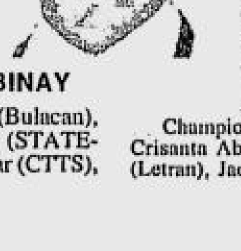
Champion—Beverly Villar (Amoranto), 1st Runner-up—Kristine Carrel Dumlao (Amoranto), 2nd Runners-up, Natalie Cayabyab (CTTS), Kheith Lhynne Cruz (SBFTTC)

Boys 14 and under:

Champion—Edward Ramos (Letran), 1st Runner up—John Benedict Cruz (Letran), 2nd Runners-up—Carlo Abadiano (Letran), Jonathan Cayabyab (Letran)

Girls 14 under and 17 under:

Champion—Sendrina Balatbat (Bulacan), 1st Runner-up—Ayra Malabayabas (STATE-LB), 2nd Runners-up—Cecilia Bazar (CTTS), Mary Jean San Juan (FEU)


BINAY

Boys 17 and under:

Champion—Noel Cesar Atilano (Letran), 1st Runner-up— Alferez Chua (PCHS), 2nd Runners-up—Jean Calvin Haz (Cavite TTC), Mark Jayson Omnes (PATTO)

Men's 25 and under:

Champion—Ronald Bunag (PAF), 1St Runner-up—Kerby Colis (Cavite TTC), 2nd Runners-up—Noel Atilano (Letran), James Borleo (PAF)

Women's 25 under and 25 above:

Champion—Susan Tayang, 1St Runner-up—Crisanta Abas, 2nd Runners-up, Jean Bellaflor (Letran), Jade Jallores (CTTS)

Men's 30 and under:

Champion—Julios del Rosario (FEU), 1St Runner-up—Ray Aballe (LEYTF), 2nd Runners-up—Christopher Castillo (Phil. Navy), Emer Alcazar (SBFTTC)

Men's 40 under and 50 under:

Champion—Ireland Cabrido (I.S. M.), 1st Runner-up—Ojack Morciequillo (Laloma)2nd Runners-up—Jet Yatco (Makati), Alex dela Cruz (Cavite TTC)

Event 15 and 16 Men's 60 under and 60 above:

Champion—Patrocinio Marcos (Laloma), 1st Runner-up Elli Sabello (Laloma), 2nd Runners-up—Carlito Belicano (Makati), Luisito Kho (Laloma)

For inquiries, call PTTDU (3rd Floor, Makati Youth Center, J.P. Rizal St., Makati City) at 895-8247 and 8958248.

Negros jr netfest today

BACOLOD'S pride Yanick Guba displays his prowess when the Negros Occidental Tennis Association hosts the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop starting today. Guba is expected to compete in the boy's 18 and 16-under division in the Milo netfest organized by Children's Tennis Workshop supported by Adidas and Sports Kids. Featured events in the Milo nationwide junior tennis development program are the boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and Unisex 10-under divisions.

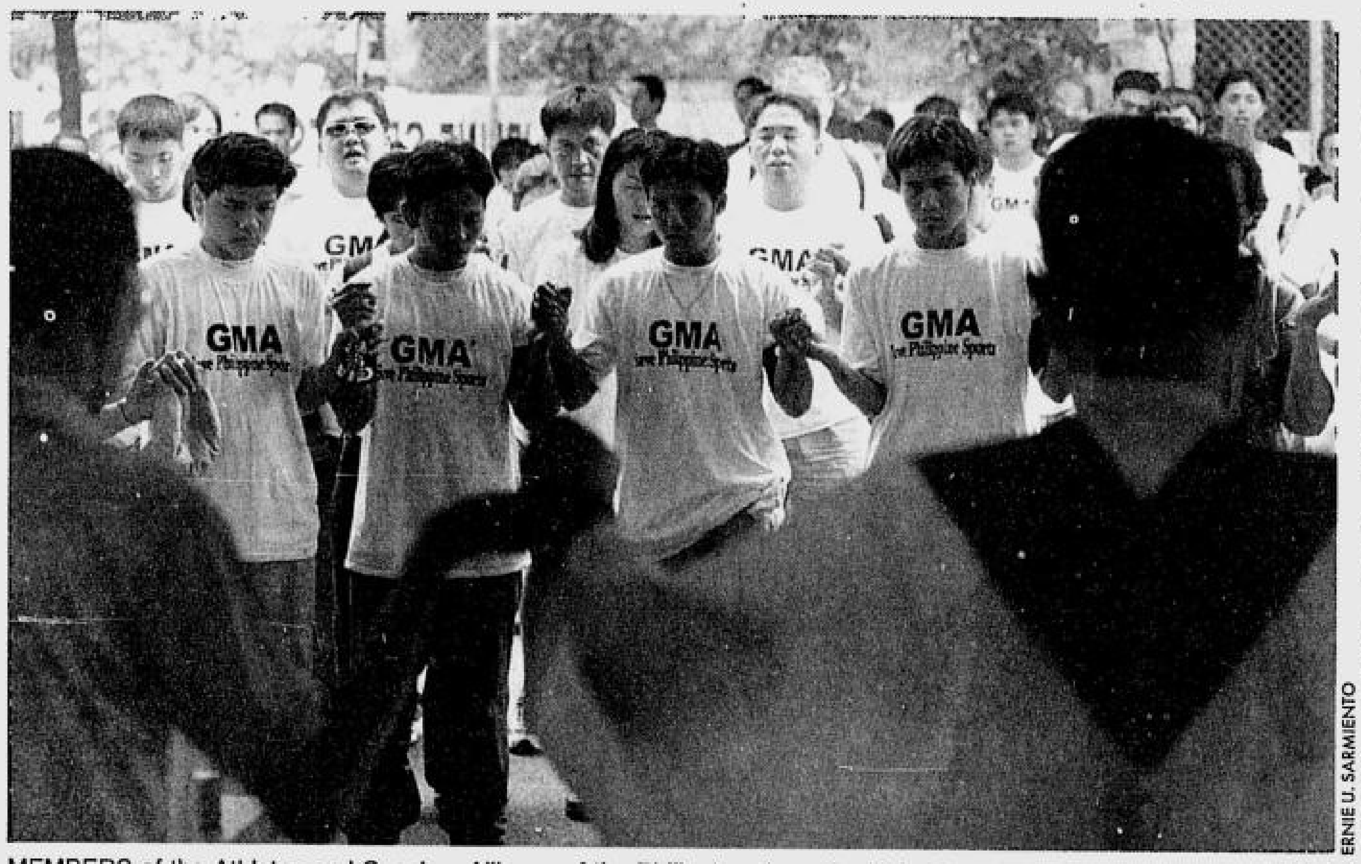
SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Filipino chessers prevail

TEN-YEAR-OLD Karl Victor Ochoa ripped Marcos Camacho of Spain in the boys 10-under in 28 moves of a Ruy Lopez to notch his second straight win and barge into the top 10 of the standings with 3.0/4 card after the fourth round of the 2001 World Youth Chess Championship in Oropesa del Mar, Spain Wednesday. NM Oliver Barbosa blasted Argentina's Fabio Roisman in 35 moves of an English game to notch his second straight victory and remain in strong contention for the 18-under title with 2.5/4 points.

BIG BLOW

Coup rumor dampens athletes rally



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

MEMBERS of the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines hear the Holy Mass, kicking off the rally yesterday.

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

THE RUMORED coup attempt has already claimed one victim—the protest rally staged by disgruntled national athletes and coaches.

Yesterday, the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines' bid to oust top sports officials got a big blow when its president, Jaime Sebastian, was picked up from his house and was made to report to the headquarters of the Philippine Air Force where he is an enlisted man.

Along with him, all the enlisted men in the Armed Forces, comprising some 80 percent of the national athletes' pool, were recalled to their respective units reportedly in anticipation of the rumored coup attempt against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

There were some 280 Acap members who showed up at the start until the military personnel from among the members started to leave upon their superiors' orders.

A handful remained under the supervision of national basketball coach Bay Cristobal, hoping to proceed with the mass action and pressure the top officials of the Philippine Sports Commission to step down.

"It will push through even without me," said weightlifting coach Sebastian, who by 5 p.m. yesterday was set to join his wards in front of the administration building of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Ironically, PSC chair Butch Tuason was in Baguio yesterday to sign a memorandum of agreement reportedly with President Macapagal-Arroyo and pencak silat officials. Commissioner Cynthia Carrion stayed at the RMSC to face the rallying Acap members.

Carrion immediately ordered RMSC security to ensure peace and order yet she allowed the protesters to put up streamers and banners.

The protest, which was generally peaceful, began with cause-oriented priest Fr. Robert Reyes officiating the Holy Mass attended even by PSC employees.

Acap members were asking for the ouster of Tuason and his four commissioners "for failing to address their basic demands like wage increase, uniforms, shoes and decent living quarters."

But Tuason claimed that he just increased the salaries of athletes and coach last May. He also told Acap that the additional raise would be ready next year since the agency will be using its funds for Christmas expenses, that include bonuses for athletes and coaches.

Seniors tilt at Sta. Elena unfolds Nov. 5

A NORTHWEST Airlines business class ticket to any city in the United States, P100,000 worth of local travel packages and a Weinstein Piano are at stake as hole-in-one prizes when the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc. holds the inaugural Senior Care Fellowship Golf Classic on Nov. 5 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club course.

The Senior Care Classic comes on the heels of the tightly contested Federation League, FGCPI's centerpiece project which was won by Forest Hills.

A heavily loaded package of prizes is assured with the confirmation of generous sponsorships from former Rep. Gilberto Duavit as major backer, Philippine Airlines which is giving away two business class tickets to Hong Kong, Ford Phils., the Philippine Sports Commission and Custom Clubmakers. Citra Tollways and Nivea are coming in as donors.

The event is open to all Senior Care cardholders. Participants will be classified according to age with those 55-59 years old in the Classic division, 60-64 Elite, 65-59 Statesmen, 70 and above Vintage and Reynas for ladies 55 and above.

Newly elected FGCPI president Ogie Manalo and lawyer Joe B. Abejo, chair of the FGCPI senior care program Rey Adriano will lead the roster of entries from the FGCP membership of 27 clubs.

Rey Adriano, president of the Puerto Azul Golf and Country Club and chair of the tournament committee, said that preparations for the 18-hole event capping the senior season are already in full blast.

Registration forms are available at all golf offices of member club of FGCP. Slots are limited to the first 144 registrants.

RP golfer shines in Newton Classic

NEW SOUTH WALES, Australia—The Philippines' Freence Tecson came up with 274 recently to capture overall net honors in the 2001 Jack Newton International Junior Classic here.

Tecson, a Sakya student back home who competed in the 17 years old division, toured the par 72 Oaks Golf Club course with rounds of 79, 88, 78 and 81. With a 13 handicap, he wound up with that 274.

Tecson was among three Filipino juniors who competed in the annual championship founded and organized by Newton, one of the world's top professionals in the '80s.

The other two were Tecson's younger brother Jenz and Kevin Lachica. Philippine Junior Golf Federation president Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada was delegation head. His son Gerard was coach.

The younger Cantada financed the trip of the three players, which was one of promises he made right after placing fourth in the 86th Philippine Open in his pro debut in June.

Earlier, he had also contributed part of his prize money to the victims of the Mayon Volcano eruptions.

Jenz Tecson, a St. Stephen High School student, carded 81, 88, 82 and 83 for a gross total 334 but he failed to land a trophy in the boys' 15 years old division.

Buick Challenge fires off today

PINE MOUNTAIN, Georgia —Davis Love III once showed up for his tee time at Callaway Gardens with camouflage paint smudged on his face.

He didn't have time to wipe it all off after some early morning hunting in the quiet, rolling hills of west Georgia.

Most weeks on the PGA Tour, there's little time for pursuits such as hunting or fishing. That's why the Buick Challenge has become a favorite stop for the players.

"A lot of it is the small town and the relaxed atmosphere," said David Duval, who returns for the opening round Thursday (Friday in Manila) as defending champion. *AP*

Teener steals karting show

KEN Monzones outlasted chief rival Buffy Laurel to capture the Cadet 60 class of the 2001 Shell Super Karting Series recently at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite.

The 12-year-old Monzones displayed promising skills as he survived the tight battle against the grandson of car racing legend Dodjie Laurel to clinch the crown by just five points.

Monzones, a grade six pupil at La Salle-Lipa, is a protégé of the Tuason Racing Project karting clinic before he and father Neil joined the scene this year.

"He's really exceptional. I was impressed on his first try, he seemed like a natural racer. I knew this kid will go a long, long way in the racing scene," said two-time Karter of the Year Jean-Pierre Tuason.

De Oro entry tops 10K run

FAST rising Simon Bolivar of Cagayan de Oro overtook local favorite Julius Sermona of Binalbagan in the last kilometer to win last Sunday's Adidas Pharmaton 10K Masskara Run held in festive Bacolod City.

Bolivar clocked 32 minutes and 52 seconds to frustrate Sermona, who settled for second in 32:58, with Iloilo City's Adonis Lobaton pocketing third in 33:16.

It was a day for the visitors as Marigen Lobaton pocketed third in 33:16.

Marigen Campos of Roxas City routed the women's field to triumph in 41:11. La Carlota's Hermenia Esmedia and Joan Erespe, both former champions of the circuit, wound up second and third in 42:32 and 42:43, respectively.

The run designated anew as the official footrace of the Masskara Festival also saw the participation of the country's two oldest runners Felipe Villanueva and Raymond San Juan, both 87, one-legged triathlete Rudy Fernandez and DOTC Undersecretary Art Valdez who also assisted in the awarding ceremonies.

Race director Raffy Uytiepo together with Adidas managing director John Alonte, events coordinator Goody Custodio and Pharmaton's Art Huet and Jake Labiran handed the prizes to the winners.

The winner received cash prizes, Italian trophies and medals, Adidas running shoes, Rudy Project sunglasses, Gatorade squeeze bottles, Osaka herbal tea and Pharmaton gift packs.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA National Car Rental Golf Classic Highlights at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Asian PGA/ Davidoff Tour - Volvo China Open, Final Day at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour at 11:30 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.) on Star Sports

Golf Classics - Tiger's Triple at 5:30 p.m. on ESPN

Buy.Com Tour Championship 2001, First Round at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 7:30 a.m. (r – 6:30 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA Inside Stuff at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

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Shell National Youth ACTIVE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2001
Davao Leg Winners

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1st Runner-up	James D. Bulicatin (Panabo National High School - Panabo City)
2nd Runner-up	Kenneth O. Ihalas (Nabunturan Comprehensive High School - Compostela Valley)
	Juniors
Champion	Jayson B. Salubre (Carmen Nat'l. High School - Davao del Norte)
1st Runner-up	John Ritter V. Belocura (Sta. Ana Nat'l. High School - Davao City)
2nd Runner-up	Aldrin S. Salvatierra (Univ. of Southern Mindanao - Davao City)

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October 26, Friday	9:00 am - 12:00 mn
October 27, Saturday	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm
October 28, Sunday	9:00 pm - 12:00 mn

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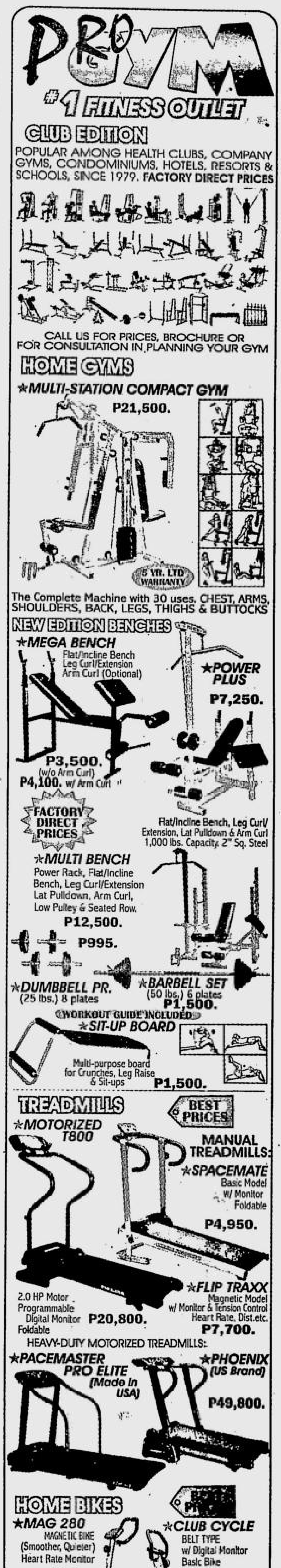

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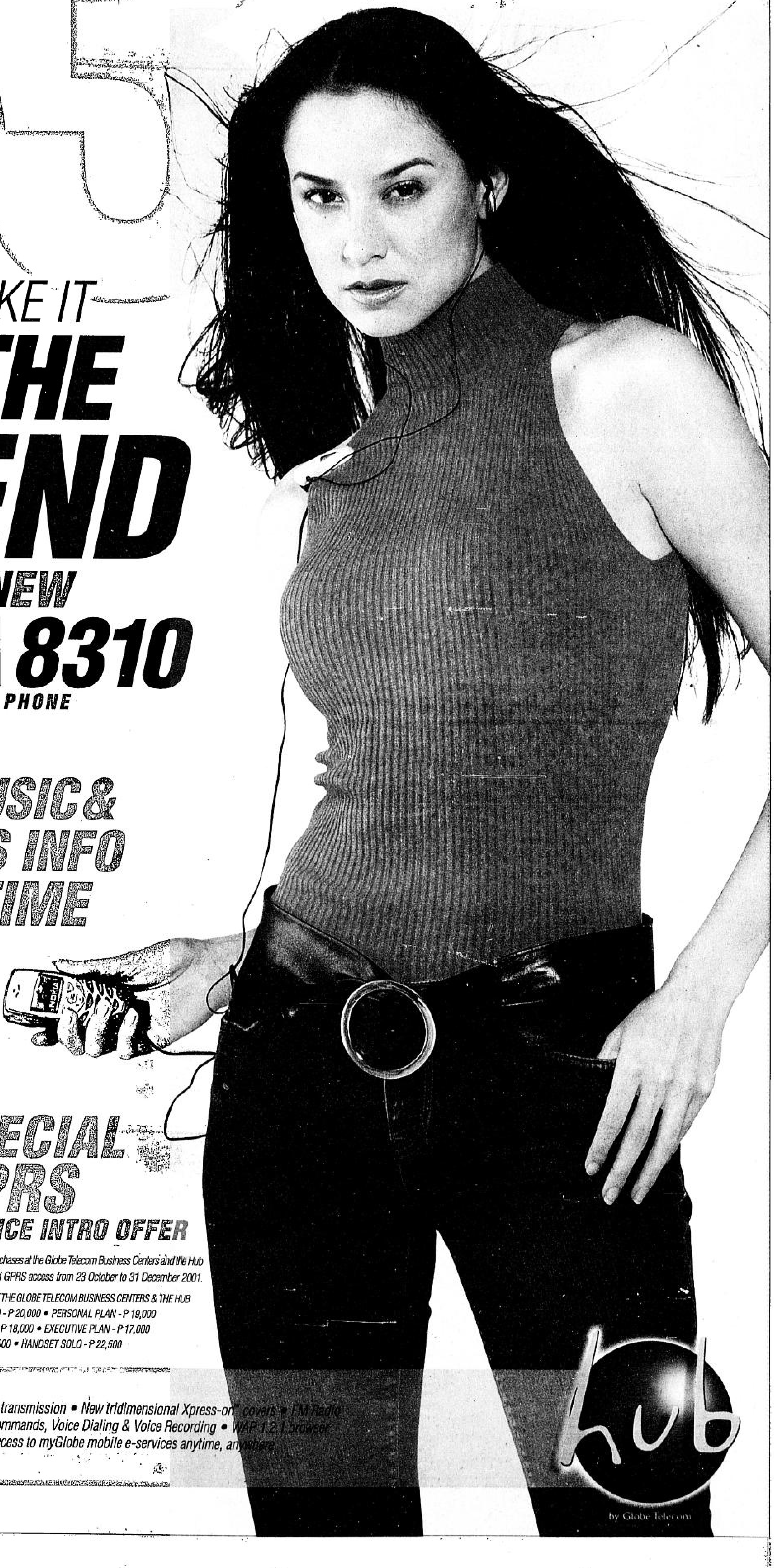

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Clash looms over private road ordinance A26

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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'We stopped nuke plant, we'll stop landfill'

Priest disputes Abalos claim that locals back trash project

ABALOS

BY TONETTE OREJAS AND GREG REFRACCION, PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

ABOUT 500 residents led by Catholic and Aglipayan priests yesterday picketed the Bataan provincial capitol and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Balanga City, Bataan to oppose government plans to build a landfill in Bagac town for Metro Manila's garbage.

"Before, it was a nuclear power plant, now it's garbage we have to stop," the residents chanted in Filipino.

"If the people of Bataan managed to have the Bataan nuclear power plant closed, then we are united and ready to stop any plan to build a landfill," Bagac parish priest Msgr. Edilfredo Cruz told the Inquirer.

The coalition Mamamayan Laban sa Basura ng Kamaynilaan (MLBK) held the unscheduled

WE STOPPED/ A26

No seatbelts, no registration, says LTO chief

BY AGNES E. DONATO

ONLY vehicles with seatbelts would be processed for registration with the Land Transportation Office, according to LTO chief Edgardo Abenina.

Abenina had issued an order directing district offices and licensing units to process only the registration of motor vehicles with seatbelts.

LTO spokesperson P/Supt. Hermogenes Tosino said that the directive was meant to remind motorists that the use of seatbelts was for their safety.

The Seat Belt Law requires drivers of private vehicles, taxicabs and jeepneys, and passengers seating beside the drivers, to buckle up.

For passenger buses, the law requires the driver and the passengers from the first row to the third row to wear seatbelts.

Motorists who fail to install seatbelts in their vehicles would be fined P1,000. Drivers caught not using their belts would be fined P300.

Abenina also warned members of the LTO Flying Squad who were reported to have been extorting motorists that he would punish those proven to be involved in any illegal activities. He said he already ordered the LTO legal department to investigate the complaints against the erring enforcers.

The LTO Flying Squad was reestablished as an LTO task force to boost the campaign against colorum vehicles and other traffic violations. *With a report from Creamy Cedillo*

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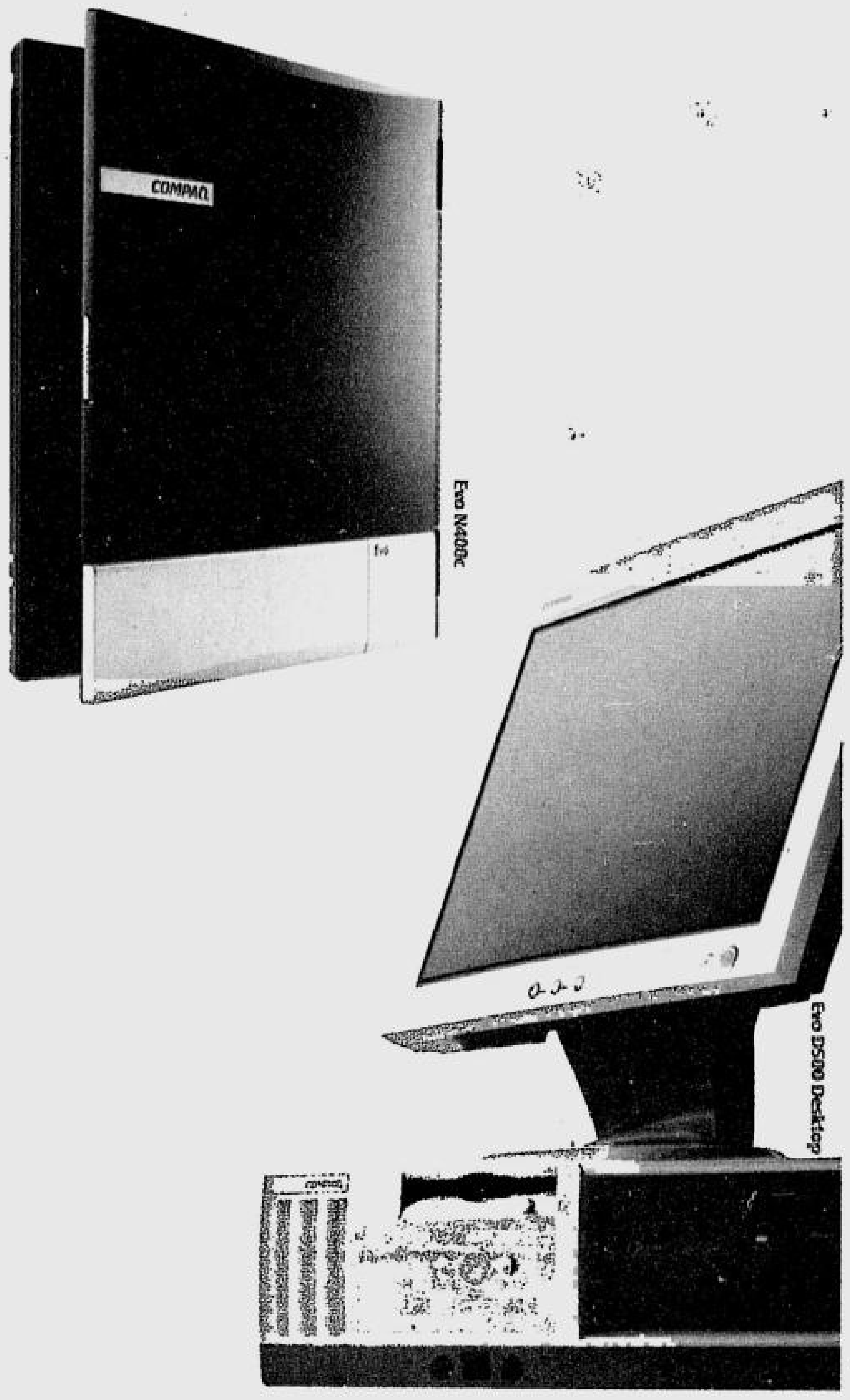

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Docs, nurses who reuse needles, syringes may face jail

BY JEROME ANING

DOCTORS and nurses in Manila hospitals and medical institutions found to be reusing disposable needles and syringes face a year and jail or a fine of P2,000 up to P5,000, once a city councilor's ordinance is approved.

Last week, the Council's committees on health, civil service and laws had approved the ordinance authored by comedian-turned-politician Lou Veloso.

On Tuesday, Veloso delivered a privilege speech on the ordinance during the council session.

But members of the laws committee asked Veloso if dentists and their attendants should also be covered by the ordinance. Other councilors wanted to know if government hospitals that are under-funded and suffering from shortage of needles and syringes would also be covered by the ordinance.

Veloso, sixth district councilor, said he recently received reports from his constituents that some doctors, nurses and medical attendants in both private and public hospitals in the city were reusing needles and syringes.

He said such practices speak of "evident malice and bad faith to the detriment of the patients."

He reminded medical practitioners that "disposable needles and syringes are so designed to be discarded after having been used for the first time."

He added that medical studies have proven that patients injected with re-used syringes and needles risk contracting infectious disease such as AIDS and hepatitis.

Veloso said the penalties provided under his proposal shall be without prejudice to any administrative proceeding which could be initiated against the violators, including the cancellation of their professional licenses.

Clash looms over private road ordinance

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE Parañaque government is girding up for a showdown with homeowners associations in the city over a proposed ordinance that would open up the subdivisions' private roads to the public.

In a conference called by the Metro Manila Development Authority in Mandaluyong the other day, Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez said the proposed ordinance would open up the villages' roads to traffic and ease congestion in the city's main roads by providing motorists with alternative routes.

Marquez pointed out that subdivisions and exclusive villages comprise around 80 percent of Parañaque City's land area.

Under the proposal, residents who pay land taxes at city hall will be issued a free car sticker allowing their vehicles entry to any of the city's 140 private subdivisions during rush hours.

Marquez has been at odds with the United BF Homeowners Association Inc. (UBFHAI) ever since he became city mayor for the first time. Marquez, on his second term as mayor, has criticized the association for its policy of disallowing public use of private roads within the subdivision.

At one time, Marquez scolded UBFHAI president Celso Reyes for collecting "exorbitant" entry fees from motorists without stickers, whether or not they were residents of BF Homes.

The mayor called the collection "improper."

Marquez said his office received numerous calls from motorists complaining that the guards of BF Homes were using the subdivision's entry points as "toll gates" collecting fees from passing motorists. Fees exacted depended on the size of the vehicle and their cargo.

But Reyes and the other homeowners stressed that the Supreme Court had affirmed the village association's right to impose fees. The fees, Reyes' group said, were used to maintain the roads.

However, some BF Homes residents pointed out that the roads were not being maintained at all. They claimed they have not seen maintenance crews working on the streets. They also said the village association was "making money" by selling car stickers at exorbitant prices.

Former MWSS officer ready for audit

BY AGNES E. DONATO

ONE of two administrators of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System who were recently sacked said she is willing to undergo a performance audit to disprove allegations of her incompetence.

Elena Luz Alojipan, whose services were terminated for alleged inefficiency and insubordination, said that as early as last April, there had been calls for a thorough investigation of issues affecting the MWSS regulatory office but nothing had been done about them.

Alojipan gave reporters a copy of a letter written by Rosalinda Valdez, senior water utilities regulation officer, urging Malacañang to investigate the roots of the controversy in the MWSS regulatory office.

Valdez's letter, however, was forwarded by the Presidential Management Staff to the Presidential Committee on Effective Governance, which in turn passed it on to MWSS administrator Jose Mabanta.

Alojipan had been told to vacate her post on Nov. 2, but she said she still wanted a performance audit of the regulatory office so that people would know who really was not functioning well.

"It's never too late for an audit," she said. "I don't claim to be perfect in my job, but I'm definitely not what they accuse me to be."

Alojipan earlier vowed to fight in court her dismissal from office, saying the MWSS board of trustees has no jurisdiction over the regulatory office because the latter is an independent body established to monitor operation of the two water concessionaires.

"We will not take this lying down," Alojipan said of the Oct. 11 letter issued by MWSS administrator Mabanta directing her and the other administrator, Virgilio Ocaya of the legal and administrative regulation office, to vacate their posts effective Nov. 2.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, October 26, 2001
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Rom 7:18-25**
Gospel: **Lk 12:54-59**

Jesus said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once: 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. And when the wind blows from the south, you say: 'It will be hot'; and so it is. You superficial people! You understand the signs of the earth and the sky, but you don't understand the present times. And why do you not judge for yourselves what is fit? When you go with your accuser before the court, try to settle the case on the way, lest he drag you before the judge and the judge deliver you to the jailer, and the jailer throw you in prison, I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the very last penny."

Commentary

The ancient Jewish teachers believed that rain was directly under God's control. Reading the signs of the seasons was therefore like interpreting God's will. Jesus names the crowd "hypocrites." The original meaning of the word referred to a reader of poetry or an actor who interprets action in a drama. Hypocrites perform according to their own interpretation. We choose a way of life according to our interpretation. It may be an interpretation from others. The great mistake is when we take our personal interpretation as closed, as the only right way. We take God on our own terms, and this is the sin that Jesus condemns. The Christian is always open to every good whether it comes from a friend or foe.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Parol evidence rule; exceptions—The so-called parol evidence rule forbids any addition to or contradiction of the terms of a written instrument by testimony or other evidence purporting to show that, at or before the execution of the parties' written agreement, other or different terms were agreed upon by the parties, varying the purport of the written contract. When an agreement has been reduced to writing, the parties cannot be permitted to adduce evidence to prove alleged practices, which to all purposes would alter the terms of the written agreement. Whatever is not found in writing is understood to have been waived and abandoned. The rule is not without exceptions, however, as it is likewise provided that a party to an action may present evidence to modify, explain or add to the terms of the written agreement if he puts in issue in his pleadings: (a) An intrinsic ambiguity, mistake or imperfection in the written agreement; (b) The failure of the written agreement to express the true intent and agreement of the parties thereto; (c) The validity of the written agreement; or (d) The existence of other terms agreed to by the parties or their successors in interest after the execution of the written agreement. None of these exceptions finds application in the instant case. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Manufacturers Building, Inc. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 116847, March 16, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

WHILE no permanent landfill has been designated, garbage continues to pile up in the streets of Metro Manila. RANDY HORMILLOSA

We stopped nuke plant . . .

(From page A25)

picket on Thursday after the Metro Manila Development Authority declared a "garbage-free Christmas" in Metro Manila, Cruz said.

"Gov. Leonardo Roman should tell the MMDA that Metro Manila's garbage should not be intended for Bataan, period," the priest said.

Militant groups in Bataan have also threatened to stage protests similar to the anti-nuclear plant rallies held in the 1980s.

Roman told the Inquirer the province was "not ready and eager" to host Metro Manila's garbage. He said his political opponents have been feeding wrong information to the residents.

But Deo Calimbas of the MLBK said provincial leaders have not been very categorical about their stand on garbage.

"They said they do not want an ordinary landfill or open dumpsite and that they prefer a recycling plant," Calimbas said. "Whatever you call it, it is still garbage."

Cruz also disputed the claim of MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos that local officials and residents of Bagac supported the landfill project at Sitio Anyasan in Barangay Quenauan (not Tanawan as earlier reported) after the MMDA junked the plan to use the BNPP compound as a dumpsite.

Bagac Councilor Virgilio Baciles urged residents to be vigilant, saying the landfill contractor Waste Management Industries Inc. (WMII) has started doing environmental assessments and constructed bunkers in Anyasan early this month.

Baciles also warned residents that Bagac officials have not passed a resolution supporting or opposing the project.

He said the barangay council of Quenauan early this month passed a resolution supporting WMII's Bataan Ecological Waste Management Complex.

In documents obtained from capitol sources, WMII said it plans to construct a "big facility principally for recycling and composting organic wastes."

WMII added that the garbage it would recycle and compost would come from Metro Manila and Bataan's 12 towns.

In Resolution No. 206 passed on Oct. 15, provincial board members said they could not accept turning Bataan into a dump for trash from Metro Manila or other parts of the country.

Ordinary landfill or open dumping was also "not acceptable," the board members said.

But the board members said in the resolution that they would be amenable to "a recycling plant or any other ecological-friendly waste management facility that will be established in Bataan on a sustainable period that is safe based on internationally accepted standards."

The garbage crisis in Metro Manila has prompted officials to look for alternative solutions.

On Wednesday, a team of international experts offered their services to government and proposed to operate a 9-year-old technology that can supposedly recycle all garbage in Metro Manila.

The United States-based Interstate Waste Technologies Inc. said they can recycle half of the 6,000 tons of garbage generated daily in Metro Manila with "thermoselect," a technology that uses high temperature to convert garbage into useable materials.

Interstate, a consortium of international companies, is planning to put up a thermoselect factory in Metro Manila under a 30-year build-operate-transfer scheme, according to Belgian Roger van den Berghe, the company's consultant in the Philippines.

The factory, he said, would have at least 10 lines that can fully recycle 3,000 tons of garbage-including hospital and industrial wastes. Each line can process 300 tons, Van den Berghe said.

The foreign consortium is asking government to provide an 8.5-hectare lot in Metro Manila for their US$450-million factory.

The Belgian consultant said he and other company representatives have already submitted a proposal to the MMDA, but they have yet to receive a response.

Thermoselect follows an eight-step procedure in recycling all kinds of wastes, except those with nuclear components, Van den Berghe said.

Interstate is operating thermoselect factories in Germany, Switzerland, Italy, South Korea, Brazil, Japan, Puerto Rico, and the US, according to Van den Berghe. ***With a report from Christian Esguerra***

Death chamber renovation on

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

SIX years after it was built, the lethal injection chamber at the National Bilibid Prisons is being renovated to "make it ready and presentable anytime."

The rush by prison officials to make repairs to the death chamber was apparently triggered by Malacañang's announcement that the execution of death convicts, especially convicted kidnappers, would proceed.

"We want to make it ready and presentable anytime," said

Supt. Venancio Tesoro, public information officer, in an interview with reporters yesterday .

He said the renovation began last week.

The last convict to be executed in the chamber was convicted rapist Pablito Andan.

Andan's execution took place about a year ago. Since then, termites had already taken over a portion of the room, according to prison officials who inspected it last week.

Tesoro said many equipment, including the direct phone line to the President, monitors, lights, fax machine, air-conditioning units, had been transferred to other offices after the last execution, he added.

Since the President ordered a moratorium on executions after she assumed office this year, prison officials had not inspected the death chamber frequently, Tesoro said.

Seven death convicts had already been executed in the chamber since it was built in 1995.

Last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo changed her mind about the death penalty and said the government would proceed with the execution of death convicts, particularly those involved in kidnap-for-ransom cases.

The move was widely believed as the President's way to appease the Filipino-Chinese community following the spate of kidnappings in Metro Manila and other provinces.

But convicted kidnappers would have to wait until next year for any execution, Tesoro said.

Of the 1,010 prisoners on death row, only 24 have death sentences that were upheld by the Supreme Court, he said.

The high court would wait for lower courts to schedule the execution of death convicts, Tesoro said.

"But if the President would totally severe her ties with the Church, executions might come much, much earlier."

1 man charged in Marikina rape-slay

BY NELSON FLORES

GOVERNMENT prosecutors filed charges of rape with homicide against a suspect in the rape and killing of 10-year-old Ma. Cristina Suyo before the Marikina City Regional Trial Court but ordered the release of seven others for lack of evidence.

Charged was Melvin Arazola, 25. He confessed to the crime after he was arrested but he refused to implicate any of his co-accused.

Arazola earlier named his best friend Ferdinand Miranda as an accomplice but he later took it back.

Ordered released were Miranda, Melvin's uncle Cesar Arazola, 51; and Melvin's cousins Noel Arazola, 20; Rizaldy Arazola, 22; and Claro Arazola, 41; and nephew Ritchel Miranda.

The parents of the victim said they could not believe that Arazola acted alone in committing the crime.

A prosecutor, who asked not to be named, said it would be difficult to pin down any of the suspects in the absence of a DNA testing.

Records showed that Suyo, a grade school pupil, was raped and stabbed to death on Oct. 5. Her naked body, wrapped in a plastic bag, was found in an open canal near the Arazola residence at 166 Southeast Narra St. in Barangay Marikina Heights in Marikina City.

A trail of blood led lawmen right to the doorsteps of the Arazola residence, where the girl's bloodied underwear, sandals and shorts were found.

Confronted with the evidence, Melvin admitted the crime, saying he was drunk when he committed it.

If convicted, he could be sentenced to death by lethal injection.

The Marikina City police chief, Supt. Leo Kison, earlier said they had an airtight case against the suspects.

Three top journalists honored

TOP journalists Sheila S. Coronel, Jessica A. Soho and Dean Armando J. Malay Sr. are set to receive today the first Metrobank Foundation's Search for Outstanding Journalism (SOJ) Awards in ceremonies at the Metrobank Plaza in Makati City.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. has been invited as guest of honor and keynote speaker.

The Metrobank Foundation conducts the search in partnership with the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC). The search chose Coronel, executive director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), as outstanding print journalist, GMA-7's Soho as outstanding broadcast journalist, and Malay, one of the country's icons in journalism and education, as the recipient of the Distinguished Leadership in Journalism Award.

Aside from the specially designed SOJ medallion, Coronel and Soho will each receive P75,000. Malay will also receive the medallion and P100,000.

Supreme Court Associate Justice Artemio V. Panganiban chaired this year's final board of judges. Other members of the final board were former Education secretary and current Miriam College board member Dr. Lourdes R. Quisumbing, Asian Institute of Management president Roberto de Ocampo, Today columnist Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ, and UP Mass Communication professor Elizabeth Diaz.

The search recognizes and honors outstanding journalists who are models of excellent journalism.

Elegy for a young painter

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

Miguel Reyes Castillo, 33, who perished in a sea mishap in Cavite on Sunday, was cremated yesterday. Some of the works of the talented young artist were put on display during a three-day wake at the Mt. Carmel Church in Quezon City. The works drew rave comments from discerning figures, like the multi-awarded painter Danilo Dalena. But this masterful eulogy, composed and delivered by Paolo Lansang Reyes, Miguel's cousin, best defined the kind of artist and adventurous achiever we have lost:

"We all grew up together at 30 Makiling Street. To the younger cousins, including myself, and to all the neighborhood kids, Miguel was a hero and our idol. This was for very obvious reasons: He was faster, stronger and more cunning then anybody else. He had a keen eye and steady hands, which was why he drew and painted beautifully, and was a dead shot whether with his pistol or his rifle. He always had the best ideas on what to be doing on those long summer days, and he was by far the best swimmer I ever knew.

"I remember going to his basketball games. I told myself I was going to have a *barkada* like him when I grew up, and play shooting guard position with the team like he did. There was one particular game I remember when Migs finished a fastbreak. He soared through the air so high I thought he was going to dunk the ball. He let go of the ball just above the rim, and came crashing down on one of the steel pillars holding up the Ateneo covered courts. I believe he left the game with a badly bruised face and a dislocated shoulder. And that was how Miguel lived life and played basketball. He lived hard and he played hard, he was a fierce competitor and always attacked the basket. He had guts.

***

"One summer night we were camping out beneath the old narra tree in our backyard when we heard one of our friends shouting out in the street. He was walking to our house and was being picked on by a bunch of drunks, simply because he was extremely fat. We went into *Tita* Nene's house to look for help, and found Migs eating ice cream. Without even thinking twice, he went out into the street armed only with the spoon he was eating his ice cream with. Miguel chased one of the drunks right up to the gate of their house. You all should have seen the look on that coward's face, banging on the gate and screaming for help. Stories tend to get exaggerated and grow overnight, and the next morning every kid in the neighborhood was talking about how Miguel took on an entire bunch of drunks with only a spoon as a weapon. No one on our street ever bothered us again after that, and that was how Miguel became legendary with the kids in our neighborhood. We all wanted to grow up to be just like Miguel.

"But life is strange, and things oftentimes don't turn out the way they're planned. None of us ever became basketball players, or boxers, or hunters, or adventurers, or artists. Indeed, we all grew up to become the lawyers, doctors or engineers that we are today. The things that were held sacred in our youth became obsolete or even foolish to some. But not for Miguel. He never seemed to want to grow old like the rest of us, somewhat like Peter Pan. I think all of us still depended on Miguel to make sure New Year's Eve celebrations were as they should be. Or that going to the beach still meant climbing over seaside cliffs, or diving into unexplored pools on the other side of an unfamiliar island.

"For us, the loss is too great to be calculated or put into words. Carlos said this three nights ago: Things will never be the same. But I guess we're all human, and it's only human nature to think about what he have lost, not what Miguel has gained. I believe in God, and I know that Miguel is now in his Father's house, in God's country. It's comforting to think of Miguel painting the world from a perspective none of us can now see. Or hunting in a more ancient forest, or swimming in a deeper sea and reaching the farther shore."

Flying kick in groin kills man

A 31-YEAR-OLD man died after another man gave him a flying kick in the groin in Makati City early yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Jovito Esplago, of Barangay West Rembo, Makati City. The suspect, who escaped, was identified as Dondon Flores, of the same area.

According to the Makati City Police complaint desk, the assault happened after 12 a.m. The two men were reportedly arguing over a still undetermined subject near Esplago's house.

Witnesses told police Flores suddenly gave Esplago a flying kick to the groin. Esplago fell, and witnesses were surprised to find out that he was already dead.

Alcuin Papa

FRIGHT PROMO

JOAN BONDOC

Men in body paint and elaborate costumes form a pre-Halloween promotion at a Manila department store. Halloween is a good excuse for many costume parties in many establishments.

No objection to phaseout

By Jerome Aning

THE Manila city government is one step closer to phasing out the Pandacan oil depot following the city council's unanimous approval of a committee report calling for its closure.

No councilor objected to the 12-page report prepared by the committee on housing, urban development and resettlement.

Councilor Jocelyn Dawis-Asuncion authored the proposed ordinance reclassifying the 30-hectare depot lot and neighboring areas from an industrial to a commercial zone.

"The city government will not be held hostage by fear, whether perceived or real," Asuncion yesterday told her colleagues as she urged them to approve the report, which was completed after three days of public hearing.

Councilors from both the majority and minority parties took turns grilling Asuncion and proposed several amendments to the report, purportedly to make sure that the ordinance, once passed, could withstand the legal challenges hurled by the oil firms.

"This is like the battle between David and Goliath, so we have to make sure the ordinance is air-tight and won't be nullified by the courts later on," the Council's acting presiding officer, Councilor Alejandro "Kim" Atienza, told reporters.

Atienza said he expects the council to pass the ordinance next week. The councilors agreed to devote another session day to fine-tune the measure and accommodate amendments.

Asuncion told her colleagues she strongly believes that the five petroleum firms using the site—Petron, Caltex, Shell, Unioil and Mobil—do not want to leave Pandacan.

But she said the council is within its right to reclassify land in the city and stressed that the welfare of Manila residents should be the body's highest concern.

The committee's report tackled various aspects of the proposed rezoning, namely, land use and urban development, environment and health, and public safety and security.

The committee members found that there are no buffer zones or open spaces separating the depot from the general Punta-Pandacan community composed of about 11,000 households.

The city police consider the depot a "high-risk security area" while the fire department has admitted that the contingency plan it has prepared will not be enough to protect the residents.

The Presidential Security Group voiced the same concerns and supported the depot's relocation.

GREEN

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So in love?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ALL of a sudden, it's the season for onscreen and offscreen romance, as stars paired in love-oriented movies cheerfully admit that they're also living their roles in real life.

Judy Ann Santos and **Piolo Pascual** started it all in their movie about boxers, and the film benefited from their romantic glow, which helped make it a hit.

Now come **Joyce Jimenez** and **Diether Ocampo** in "Ano Bang Meron Ka," and they can't seem to keep their hands—and their lips—off each other, even when the movie camera isn't rolling.

Of course, show biz observers are greeting this latest pairing with eyebrows raised to stratospheric heights. They've heard it all before, you see, and aren't about to automatically fall for tales of "real" love, especially when they surface just in the nick of time to promote a film starring those very same admitted lovebirds.

They've also heard that Joyce won't be going all that bold in her latest flick, so they surmise that the movie is pushing the "real love" angle to make up for its lack of epidermal display.

Joyce and Diether deny that their motives are so movie-Machiavellian and insist that they're just expressing what they really feel for each other, deep inside.

But experienced movie hands remember that, when Judy Ann and Piolo's movies was showing, they were voluble about their love for each other, but they have since toned down the romantic rhetoric and now merely coo, "What you see is what you get," "If you think we're in love, so be it," "*Sa amin na lang yon*"—etc.!

Incidentally, Joyce's decision to make her image more wholesome is happy news to her erstwhile rivals in the disrobing department—**Assunta de Rossi**, **Rica Peralejo**, and new daring-and-baring converts like **Raven Villanueva**.

Let's face it, when Joyce was hot to trot, she really got the movie voyeurs all excited, due to her unique combination of dusky looks, stacked body and a "Stateside" lack of inhibition. Who cared if her voice was dubbed? As long as she wasn't using a body double, she was still bold-film aficionados' best cinematic squeeze.

But she got her TV sitcom opposite **Aga Muhlach**, and all of that changed. She began to yearn for legitimacy as a performer, to be admired for her acting talent, instead of the size of her frontal assets.

Luckily, Joyce's first "more wholesome" movie, again with Aga, clicked with the fans, so the soundness of her decision was affirmed. But "Ano Bang Meron Ka" doesn't costar her with as big a draw as Aga, so its fate at the tills is still a question mark.

Meanwhile, Assunta, Rica and company are still riding on the bold bandwagon, insecure about doing a Joyce Jimenez and giving up their sexy advantage, to see if sheer talent alone can see them through.

Their relative insecurity makes us admire Joyce even more, and we hope that her latest "more wholesome" bid will meet with movie fans' approval, true love or no true love.

'Pajama Jam'

MTV Philippines "Morning TV" throws a slumber party, "Pajama Jam" after midnight today, Oct. 26. Two partygoers with the most relaxing sleepwear can win a sharp TV set and a Globe cell phone.

"Morning TV," hosted by VJs **KC** and **Sarah**, is on MTV 6 to 7 a.m. from Monday to Friday, and 8 to 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday, at 7 p.m. (Oct. 27), Studio 23's "The Explorer" marks its first anniversary on the tube with a special show. To celebrate the event, all three "Explorer" hosts—current host **Ryan Agoncillo** and past hosts Rep. **Miguel Zubiri** and **JC Gonzalez**—embark on a three-man "Jungle survival Adventure" at Subic Freeport.

"The Explore" focuses on the wonders of Mother Nature and the need to protect the environment. The show's intrepid crew recalls with particular pride its reports on the Philippine Cockatoo in Palawan, Davao's Philippine Eagle, the dolphins of Negros Occidental, the Wart Pig in the Visayas, and the beach clean-up campaign in Anilao, Batangas.

TV treats

EVERY Thursday next month at 9:30 p.m., the dance show "Club V" will be telecast on Channel [V] Int'l. Replays are on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

The show features the best dance releases from the likes of Daft Punk, Norman Cook, Carl Cox and Basement Jaxx. Why not tune in on the show and have a dance party in your own living room?

Also on Channel [V] Int'l. on Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. and 9 p.m., "Kelly Jones of Stereophonics" features the frontman of Welsh band as he performs acoustically in small clubs In the UK and Ireland.

Kelly is joined by special guest Noel Gallagher and they perform the Oasis classic "Live Forever" and Stereophonics' "Wireless Radio."

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The Issue Is STAR TV's New Rates, Not Our Arrears

SKYCable and HomeCable never denied their arrears. The arrears mounted precisely because of our not being able to afford the continuing escalation in dollar terms of programming costs, even as subscription fees were collected in devalued peso terms.

However, the arrears is not the reason STAR cut programming. The real issue is the new and doubled rates being imposed by STAR TV and their insistence on bundling their channel offerings to include those SKYCable and HomeCable do not need.

SKYCable and HomeCable were cut off for not accepting their "all or nothing" proposal of six channels at US$10 million, up from the current US$5.5 million. In fact, STAR was willing to re-schedule the payment of the arrears had SKYCable and HomeCable agreed to these terms. It was to pressure us to accept their terms that STAR cut programming, not because of arrears.

In fact, Charles Pollard of STAR TV wrote shortly before they cut programming:

"xxx ... The offer ... is not even close enough to the ... figure we are seeking. We will therefore indefinitely suspend access to all our channels and services on all your systems and affiliates, with immediate effect from 14.00 hours today, and until an agreement on pricing and all arrears is reached ... xxx"

This letter was sent at 12:53 pm or or just a little over an hour before they cut programming.

A foreign company dividing Filipinos?

It is also unfortunate that a foreign company is using the old strategy of divide and conquer. Worse still, they are spreading less than honest assertions in the process.

SKYCable and HomeCable did not require that a 100% declaration be made by all the PCTA (Philippine Cable TV Association) members. Both companies are only operating in a limited area of the Philippines and are not competing with most of the more than 400 cable operators in the country. There is no reason to demand that the other operators pay higher so that STAR TV can generate revenues over and above what is fair.

What was requested was a level playing field. In response, STAR TV offered distribution of their channels wherein SKYCable and HomeCable would sell STAR's channels to fellow local cable operators. They expected us to be stricter in enforcing the fees on other operators.

While this will benefit SKYCable and HomeCable by leveling the playing field, it will generate higher revenues for STAR TV from us and from other operators. We declined the offer for distribution as it is not our core business.

Our sports channel will cater to Filipino tastes.

We will not shortchange our subscribers. SKYCable and HomeCable are committed to deliver creditable sports programming. We have already been bringing you exclusive coverage of major sports events like the PGA, Australian and French Open, Ryder Cup, Dunhill Links, Olympics, and others.

We are further committed to putting up our own sports channel which will cater to Filipino sports interests. We are currently in negotiations for carriage of upcoming major sports events to bring you more basketball, billiards, boxing, tennis and golf.

Rest assured that we are doing our best to bring you sports programming in line with your preferences. Stay tuned to Channel 29.

Open to negotiations.

SKYCable and HomeCable did not lose nine channels. Neither carried that many. We are willing to take their bundle, but it is simply not affordable. Even with what they term as discounts, because they insisted we take all their channels, the absolute amount was still US$10 million, practically double the US$5.5 million we were paying under the expired contract.

Foreign exchange protection is not a term they offered. It is a term we initiated as a requirement for all our negotiations with all providers.

It is also not true as they claim that they are not forcing SKYCable and HomeCable to get all their channels. All their correspondence insist on the precondition to carry all their channels, including Viva. They did give unbundled options. However, the rates of the smaller bundles were about as much as the full bundles that it was irrational to even consider taking any of the smaller bundles.

SKYCable and HomeCable subscription rates remain among the lowest in the region. Current subscription fees for both packages are at only US$10.6 a month.

COMPARATIVE REGIONAL FEES (in US Dollars)

	BASIC PACKAGE	PREMIUM PACKAGE	ADDITIONAL CHANNELS
SKYCable/HomeCable	$10.6	--	--
I-Cable (Hongkong)	$38 (15 channels only)	--	up to $15 per addl. channel
UBC (Thailand)	$15	$23	--
Astro (Malaysia)	$17	$23	--
SCV (Singapore)	$11 (10 channels only)	--	up to $8.33 per addl. channel

For the longest time, SKYCable and HomeCable have improved and increased channels as well as added extra sports offerings without additional cost to subscribers, despite having to pay increasing dollar-denominated programming costs. The peso's value fell 71% to an average of P50.71 per US dollar in 2001 from P29.70 in 1997.

We ask for the understanding of our subscribers. Being the industry leader, we have to take up the cudgels for the rest of the industry. Today, the Philippine cable television industry is in serious trouble and we need to redefine the rules by which we play now. If HomeCable and SKYCable, with the majority of the market, cannot stand up to this foreign program supplier, we might as well surrender control of the industry to them now. And subscribers should expect to pay through the nose as STAR TV demands.

Tessie holds repeat of shows

COTTON Bud talking about her affair with Ping Lactum and John Cuatro Cantos, Boy Abunda interviewing Gloria Aray-Ko. Korina Panchez, Mel Diango and Karen Dafalong trying to read the news, put one over each other and prove who is the real network "diva."

These characters stole the limelight in "Teysie @ Tweynti," the retrospective show celebrating Tessie Tomas' 20 years in comedy.

The first two shows played to an SRO audience that couldn't stop laughing, as Tessie and her guests—Boy Abunda, Jon Santos and John Lapus—traced her reign as the First Lady of Stand-up Comedy through some of her most popular comic sketches, as well as some new ones.

Catch the last two nights of "Teysi @ Tweynti," Oct. 26 and 27 at Music Museum. The show is presented by Artist House Inc. and directed by Floy Quintos from a script by Ricky Lopez and Joel Mercado.

Simultaneous gigs cap Oktoberfest

SAN MIGUEL Beer's Oktoberfest "Chowtime Showtime Caravan" continues to sizzle in an all-out massive closing bash, with simultaneous events tonight in Tomas Morato, Q.C, and Holiday Inn, Orosa St., Malate.

Jam with the country's top and get exciting treats and prizes from the fun games.

Also get the chance to meet everyone's favorite sports celebrities—the San Miguel Beermen and the Masters of Billiards.

Tonight, the two ends of Manila will be converted into party strips to give everyone their last helping of SMB's Oktoberfest celebrations.

At Holiday Inn in Malate, bands like Righteous Act, Noty Notes, Divas, Family Cruz Band, Echoblast and Fat Session provide entertainment to the beer-drinking and food-tripping crowd.

In Tomas Morato, the party starts as early as 5:30 p.m., with a sound trip by Sabor Latino, Brownman Revival, K24/7 with Shar, Silk and The Dawn.

MTV Pajama Jam

MTV Philippines invites everyone to "Morning TV's Pajama Jam," presented by MyGlobe, Granny Goose Tortillos, Nescafe Frothe, Sharp Philippines and Forty Winks.

The event happens tonight at Wherelse at Hotel InterCon, where the slumber party starts after midnight.

The two best dressed who come in their most relaxing sleepwear have the chance to win a Sharp TV set and a Globe cellphone.

Watch "Morning TV" Mondays to Fridays, 6 to 7 a.m., Saturday and Sunday from 8 to 9 a.m. It is hosted by MTV VJs KC and Sarah.

Why don't you...

(From page A31)

Last year I got some inspiring Christmas cards that stated, in lieu of a Christmas present, they were helping out a charity and I was one of the names they included in the list of donors.

Apart from my godchildren, nephews and nieces, and the staff members of my shows, I'm taking my cue from these meaningful presents I received last year.

It was a great idea, and since I value education, the two Churches (Mt. Carmel in New Manila and Twin Hearts of Jesus and Mary in West Triangle Homes) I go to most often both have scholarship foundations, one for would-be priests currently in the seminary, and one for underprivileged yet gifted students to help them out with transportation, food and materials allowances.

I like the thrust of these organizations because they not only help the youth, but they also insure a better future for them by aiding their education.

Let me end this column by greeting two very special people on their upcoming birthdays.

My sister **Viel**, who reads me and always gives me constructive critique, but also doesn't fail to give me encouraging praise when I deserve it. She's turning the big 4-0, but is still slim and youthful looking!

My soul sister and one of the most loyal and supportive friends I've ever had, **Boy Abunda**. If Boy only had a different sexual preference, he'd be my ideal lifetime partner. He's intelligent, well-read, charming, hardworking, generous, stylish, has a great sense of humor and he can also laugh at himself.

The making of a singing star

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

LEAVE it to talent manager **Ronnie Henares** and his wife, **Ida Ramos-Henares,** to create a singing superstar.

The couple first did it with **Regine Velasquez,** whom they handled when she was only 16, after winning the grand prize in the singing contest "Ang Bagong Kampeon." From a reticent *provinciana,* Regine was transformed by Ronnie and Ida into a classy and first-rate diva who can conquer audiences from Middle East to the United States.

But when Regine left the management of Primeline Inc. in January 1999, Ronnie and Ida were met with another challenge to create a new singing great in **Lani Misalucha.**

"Regine's career blessed our lives," Ida says. "After her, I thought I already heard all the highest notes. But when she left, we told ourselves it was time to move on. There might be someone out there who needs our help and can also bless our lives. I never thought it could happen with Lani."

Ronnie knew Lani would have a great career as a solo artist after they met. Regine left Primeline in January 1999. That same month, Lani signed a contract with the management outfit.

"I always knew we had the product," Ronnie says. "We only need the packaging and we had to bring in the market."

However, when he first heard Lani sing, Ronnie wasn't really impressed.

"I booked her later for a private function where the sound system was very bad, but she did very good," Ronnie recalls. "There I knew we really had another singing star in her."

Ida, who is the expert on packaging talents and image-building, immediately planned the make-over for Lani.

"It took quite a time to create a new look for Lani," Ida shares. "When we first met her, she had this ethnic look. We had to change the makeup and hair color. We wanted everything light, air colors.

"You cannot change a person when you don't give her a start. So I showed Lani a video of **Angela Bassett** and from there, we started working on a make-over. We worked with makeup artist **Nemi Rafana** to create a totally new look."

Next came accessorizing the artist. "I knew she needed accessories for her strong features. She could not have less than a diamond so she won't look cheap."

Ida tapped Moissanite Jewelry for a necklace. And with the wonders of digital imaging, Lani wore the necklace on the cover of her Viva Records album. From that time, Moissanite became her sponsor for accessories.

Viva Records welcomed the new look for Lani, who recorded the album, "All Heart," for the company. Noted lensman **Jun de Leon** did a whole day pictorial with her.

"Even in the choice of contact lens, we had to be very meticulous," Ida says. "We had to choose what color would suit Lani."

Thankfully, when Lani was starting out as a Primeline talent, she was never compared with Regine.

"She was compared more with **Jaya** because they started at about the same time," Ronnie says. "I didn't see another Regine in her, but another singing star."

"But it took the same effort to package them," Ida adds. "*Si* Regine very game *siya.* She's like a sponge who absorbs everything. She was still very young when we started with her. She just had faith and she kept going. She was never afraid to try.

"Lani is very receptive. She puts up to the challenge. It's wonderful to work with her."

The painstaking work for Lani, however, did not stop after the make-over. "For every concert, you have to watch the outfit she would wear," Ida says. "I had to talk to designers and pay attention even to the materials. For Lani's Araneta concert last September, **Maxie Cinco** and **Rajo Laurel** created the gowns."

When Lani mounts the stage of the Cultural Center of the Philippines for her two-night concert, "A Nightingale Sings," with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra on Oct. 30 and 31, she will wear seven outfits by **Larry Espinosa.**

"Larry is like an architect," Ida says. "He can create a different look for Lani onstage with the costumes."

At the CCP, Lani will have pop diva **Kuh Ledesma** as special guest. Also joining them are the UP Madrigal Singers, flutist **Antonio Maigue,** tenor **Ramon Acoymo** and the 40-piece Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Since Lani launched her solo career quite late, Ronnie knew he had to do a quick move.

"She didn't have much time because of the lateness of her coming into the business," Ronnie says. "She had to get there soon.

"She got her dream of holding a concert in Araneta in only four years. One month later, she got another dream of performing at the CCP.

"Lani paid her dues. I know the kind of billing she had before. She deserves all the good breaks that have been happening to her career now."

Lani, for her part, likes it better now that she's a lot busier. After her Araneta concert last September, she seemed unstoppable. She went to the US and performed as guest in the concerts of Freestyle in the West Coast. The following week, she returned to the Araneta Coliseum stage to perform with **Gary Valenciano** in the concert, "X-Static."

The day after the show, she went to Baguio for another concert with Gary. Now she is preparing for her CCP concert.

"The breaks are coming now and I'm really very thankful," Lani asserts. "I know I don't have much time so I have to grab every opportunity. God is giving everything to me now. I don't know what His next plan for me is, but I am just so blessed."

MISALUCHA

Testimonial dinner

CONGRATULATIONS to GMA Network's **Butch Jimenez,** who will be honored at a testimonial dinner tonight by the President of the University of the Philippines, Dr. **Francisco Nemenzo** for his support to the university.

Early this year, Butch worked with the UP School of Economics Student Council by conducting various lectures and seminars for the students and for university deans and professors.

He also initiated a fund-raising campaign to help the School of Economics' modernization program.

Untold stories on 'SIM'

THAT was a different **Assunta de Rossi** we saw in the last episode of "Scandals, Intrigues and Mysteries (SIM)." The young actress said there's no turning back in her decision to go bold, despite the pain she went through when her private parts were accidentally exposed in "Sisid." She's out to undress again in the **Joel Lamangan** opus, "Hubog," about the rape of a retarded girl.

Assunta also admitted that her boyfriend, MBA cager **Rommel Adducul,** could not accept her decision to go bold.

By its title alone, "SIM" should court controversy and intrigues. But surprisingly, it does not pass judgment on its subjects. The program merely presents the turning points in the lives of the celebrities and how they cope or overcome it.

Hosted by **Mario Dumaual** and **Gigi Grande,** "SIM" has caught on largely with the thirty or forty-something market, but it has also gained a cult following among those who are fascinated by unresolved or untold stories from both past and present.

PRIMELINE wizards Ronnie and Ida Henares (left) with first-rate talent Lani Misalucha and husband Noll.

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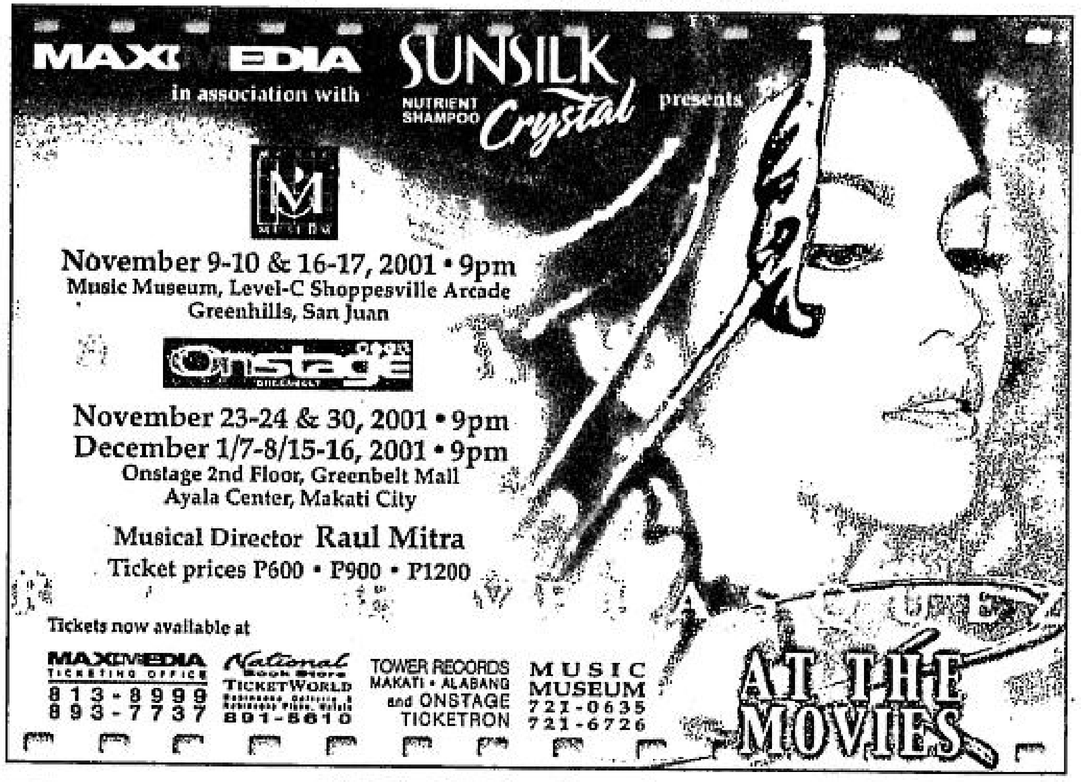

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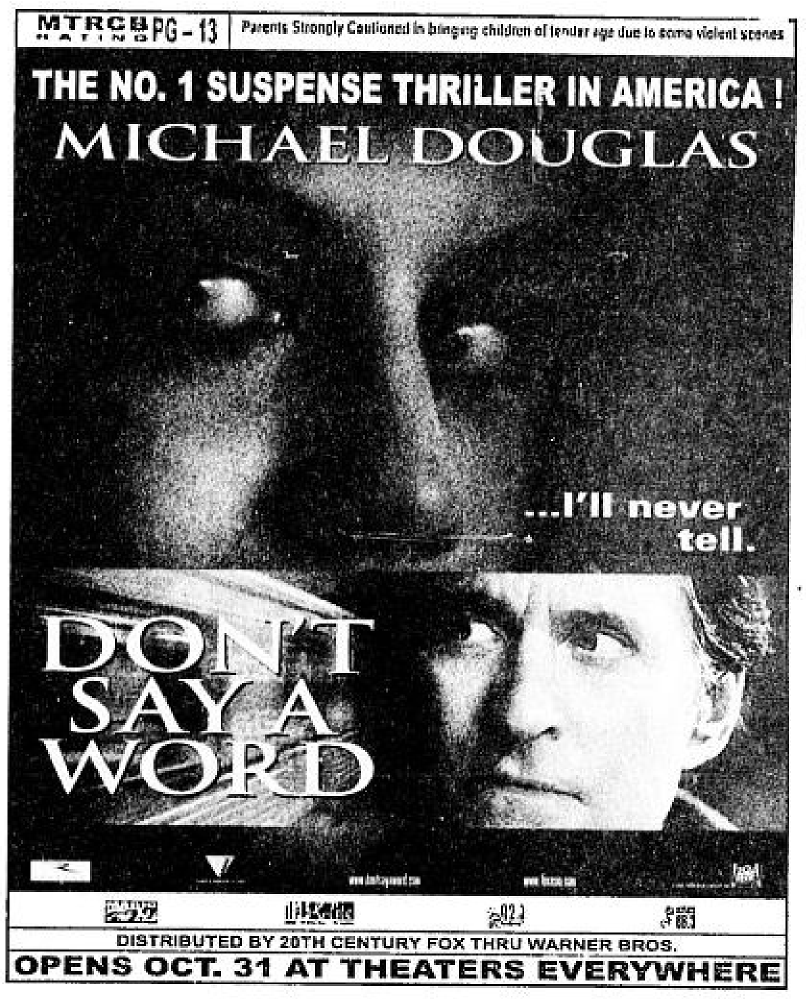

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7	HIYAS SA PARAISO
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

SM CENTERPOINT
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1	DOS EKIS
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3	TRAINING DAY
4	THE BODY
5	AMERICAN PIE 2
6	HIYAS SA PARAISO
7	LEGALLY BLONDE
8	13 DAYS
9	MANANABAS
10	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9398749

1	13 DAYS
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3	EXTREME FORCE
4	LEGALLY BLONDE
5	AMERICAN PIE 2
6	DOS EKIS
7	TRAINING DAY
8	HIYAS SA PARAISO
9	MANANABAS
10	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
11	PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS
12	NAKED NIGHT

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	TRAINING DAY
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	THE BODY
6	13 DAYS
7	PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	DOS EKIS
10	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
11	HIYAS SA PARAISO
12	MANANABAS

SM MEGAMALL
6331991 • 6329401

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	13 DAYS
3	TRAINING DAY
4	LEGALLY BLONDE
5	THE BODY
6	HIYAS SA PARAISO
7	NAKED NIGHT
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	DOS EKIS
10	AMERICAN PIE 2
11	MANANABAS
12	PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS

SM TUTUBAN
2514382

1	LEGALLY BLONDE
2	DOS EKIS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	MANANABAS

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SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	MANANABAS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	DOS EKIS
5	DOS EKIS
6	LEGALLY BLONDE
7	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	TRAINING DAY
9	PRINCESS DIARIES
10	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
11	PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS
12	HIYAS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	LEGALLY BLONDE
5	HIYAS SA PARAISO
6	THE BODY
7	DOS EKIS
8	TRAINING DAY
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	MANANABAS
2	DOS EKIS
3	HIYAS SA PARAISO

SM CEBU
2313816

1	OSMOSIS JONES
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3	THE HOLE
4	ST. FRANCISVILLE
5	MANANABAS
6	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
7	AMERICAN PIE 2

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	MARITAL RAPE
2	CLOSED
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	ST. FRANCISVILLE
5	MR. NICE GUY
6	OSMOSIS JONES
7	CLOSED
8	NAKED NIGHT

SM PAMPANGA
7120015

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	NAKED NIGHT
3	DOS EKIS
4	THE BODY
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6	DOS EKIS

SM SUCAT
8294015

1	MANANABAS
2	TRAINING DAY
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	DOS EKIS

SM DAVAO

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3	TRAINING DAY
4	AMERICAN PIE 2

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2	LEGALLY BLONDE	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	LEGALLY BLONDE THX	in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ABOUT ADAM (Exclusive Phil. Premiere) Art Film	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	DOS EKIS	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	TRAINING DAY	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	THE BODY	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	TRAINING DAY	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	AMERICAN PIE 2	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	LEGALLY BLONDE	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MOCCA JAYA LIVE! OCT. 26 9PM MITCH VALDEZ GOLDEN GIRL...DIVAH? OCT.27 9PM Onstage	

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1	LEGALLY BLONDE THX	in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	LEGALLY BLONDE	in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	TRAINING DAY	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	DOS EKIS	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	AMERICAN PIE 2	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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3 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
4 GOLD (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	TRAINING DAY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE BODY
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	DOS EKIS
10	MANANABAS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	MANANABAS
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	EXTREME FORCE
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
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1	DOS EKIS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	HIYAS

starmall Movies
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1	DOS EKIS
2	MANANABAS
3	HIYAS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
5	NAKED NIGHT

METROPOLIS star
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	HIYAS
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	MANANABAS
4	DOS EKIS
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	TRAINING DAY
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	LEGALLY BLONDE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MANANABAS
2	TRAINING DAY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	MANANABAS
3	EXTREME FORCE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
A	MARITAL RAPE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	TRAINING DAY
2	DOS EKIS
3	HIYAS
4	MARITAL RAPE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	DOS EKIS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	HIYAS
7 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
8 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
9 (DOLBY)	TRAINING DAY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	DOS EKIS

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	DOS EKIS
2	DOS EKIS
3	MANANABAS
4 (SDDS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5	HIYAS
6 (DOLBY)	LEGALLY BLONDE
7 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
2	DOS EKIS
3	MANANABAS
4	HIYAS
5 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
7 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	HIYAS
2	DOS EKIS
3 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
4	RESERVE
5 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	DOS EKIS

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DOS EKIS

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SIN OF THE NIGHT
Lords	NAKED NIGHT
Jennet	

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
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1	TRAINING DAY
2	DOS EKIS
3	HIYAS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	DOS EKIS

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	DOS EKIS
2	TRAINING DAY
3	HIYAS
4	MANANABAS
5	LEGALLY BLONDE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	DOS EKIS
2	MANANABAS
3	TRAINING DAY
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	HIYAS

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	HIYAS
3	DOS EKIS

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	MANANABAS
2	DOS EKIS

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	MANANABAS
2	DOS EKIS
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MANANABAS
2	DOS EKIS
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	THE HOLE
2 (DTS)	DOS EKIS
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	LEGALLY BLONDE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	DOS EKIS
2 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	13 DAYS

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SCARY MOVIE
2	MANANABAS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MANANABAS
2	HIYAS
3	DOS EKIS
4 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
2	DOS EKIS
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	MANANABAS
5	HULI SA AKTO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	DOS EKIS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	MANANABAS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	DOS EKIS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	13 DAYS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	MARITAL RAPE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	MANO MANO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	EXTREME FORCE
2	THE HOLE
3	13 DAYS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HULI SA AKTO
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HULI SA AKTO
2	MANANABAS
3	DOS EKIS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NAKED NIGHT
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	HULI SA AKTO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	DOS EKIS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS EX)	MANANABAS

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4	13 DAYS
5	DOS EKIS
6	TRAINING DAY
7	TOWN & COUNTRY
8	AMERICAN PIE 2
9	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
10	TRAINING DAY

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	LEGALLY BLONDE
2	DOS EKIS
3	TRAINING DAY
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	DOS EKIS
6	INVISIBLE CIRCUS
7	THE BODY

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	TRAINING DAY
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	TRAINING DAY
5	AMERICAN PIE 2
6	AMERICAN PIE 2
7	DOS EKIS
8	DOS EKIS

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	TRAINING DAY
2	DOS EKIS
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	THE BODY
5	MANANABAS
6	AMERICAN PIE 2

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0459

1	13 DAYS
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	HEARTBREAKER
5	SISID
6	PRINCESS DIARIES

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	IRA / CLIMAX
ODEON	DOS EKIS
ODEON-2	TRAINING DAY
ROBEN	HIYAS SA PARAISO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	BROTHERHOOD / STOP

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HIYAS SA PARAISO
REMAR	DOS EKIS
REMAR-2	MANANABAS

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MANANABAS
B	NAKED NIGHT
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-2	TRAINING DAY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	SISID
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	DOS EKIS

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	THE BODY
CINEMA-2	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-5	THIRTEEN DAYS
CINEMA-6	LEGALLY BLONDE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ISANG LAHI ISANG DUGO
CINEMA-2	LARUANG BUHAY
CINEMA-4	AKO ANG LALAGOT

KARYLLE. Now is her time to shine

Karylle releases second single

TAKING the title of her debut album seriously, Karylle is showing everyone that this is definitely her time to shine.

After the success of her first single which won for her the best new female artist in the 14th Aliw Awards, Karylle has now come out with her second, "Bakit Ba Ikaw," a revival of an earlier hit recorded by Geneva Cruz. The song was penned by Ito Rapadas of the Neocolours.

"Bakit Ba Ikaw" is a typical ballad and very different from Karylle's first single which was more upbeat.

Karylle has temporarily given up theater, where she first came to the attention of show biz people when she played Princess Sapphire in the first production of "Little Mermaid."

Karylle is now concentrating on her singing and hosting on the Sunday noontime show, "SOP," on GMA 7.

"I can always go back to theater anytime," she says. "I enjoyed doing theater and learned a lot from the experience. But now it's time to move on to other fields."

Aside from promoting her album, Karylle is also busy doing corporate shows. She will soon start her own portion on "SOP." The segments cater to the show's younger viewers by focusing on whatever is "in" and "trendy," whether in food, clothes, gadget, gimmicks, music, movies, hobbies or hang-outs. Karylle will regularly update "SOP" viewers on whatever is new among today's youth.

Nanette gives last serving of her 'Menu'

STAND-UP comedienne Nanette Inventor continues to delight audiences with her "Menu," a musical extravaganza that will have its last performance tonight, 8 p.m., at the Republic of Malate.

The concert showcases Nanette's singing punctuated by her humor. The show is written and directed by Nanette herself, with Elhmir Saison as musical director.

Tickets to "Menu" are priced at P750 and P500 and are available at the Republic of Malate (303-3529 to 30) and at the Manila Genesis Entertainment & Management Inc. office (721-4405 loc. 102).

Weekend gimmick

THE MILD Seven Bar tour team spices up weekend nights with its regular gimmick.

If you're man enough, play the "Mild Seven Dares" game and take home great prizes.

Be part of the groove tonight, Oct. 26, at the team stops by Makati and mingle with the crowd at Cable Car Pasay Road, Padi's Point Pasay Road and Mile Long, Buma, Café Overdrive, Stixx, Hutu's Hut, Grilla and Stars Venue.

Tomorrow night, Oct. 27, the team will party with the hip crowd of Malate as it invades Java Hut, Timbuktu, Jazz Rhythms, Bravo, Bedrock, Ten Years After, Padi's Point, Mint, Nth Degree, Indiana Café, City Square and Larry's Bar.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Why don't you...

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

1) Read the first four Harry Potter books?

For the longest time, my show's writers were convincing me to read them so that we could discuss the nuances of the books. I was reluctant because I like my fiction limited to being political, legal, romantic or thrillers.

I saw the extensive "Vanity Fair" cover story accompanied by intriguing pictures of the cast and sets used in the upcoming film, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." I was intrigued and started my journey into Harry's world.

Totalled together, the four books "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" and "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," have 1,819 pages.

I read all four volumes over eight nights. They were all enthralling and just so hard to put down.

For those who feel Harry Potter would be too juvenile or that they have too much magic and would be *mahirap masakyan,* take my word for it, they are all beautifully written, colorfully descriptive, yet easy to read.

2) Watch **Reese Witherspoon**'s adorable and charismatic performance in the film, "Legally Blonde"?

This film is very entertaining! The situations are a bit far-fetched in the same way that "Pretty Woman" was. But even if the character "Elle Woods" is superficial, you can't help but root for her and wish her success because she has such a kind heart and she's willing to make a stand for her principles.

The film highlights the message that intelligence is to be admired, intellectual snobbery though is what will make even the most gifted stumble.

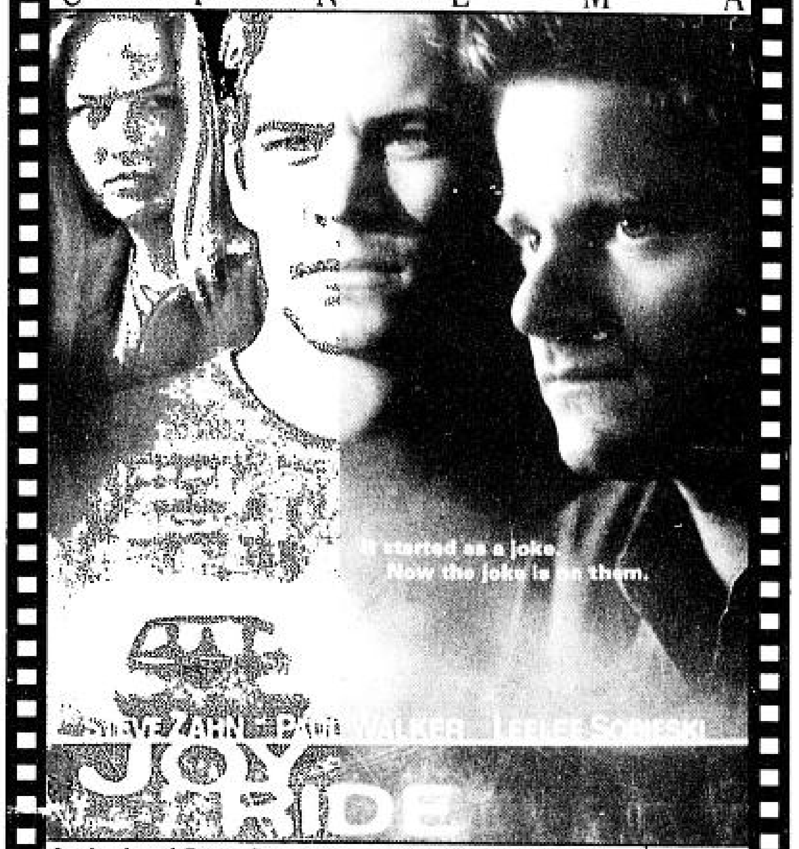
3) Drink Japanese green tea.

It is recommended to drink at least two cups a day. The tea's anti-oxidant benefits really benefit women and give us added protection against breast cancer.

I also read that green tea is supposed to help speed up our metabolism. Green tea is now readily available in all larger supermarkets.

4) Organize your Christmas gift-giving list. For friends who are materially blessed, consider giving a charitable gift in their name.

WHY/ A28

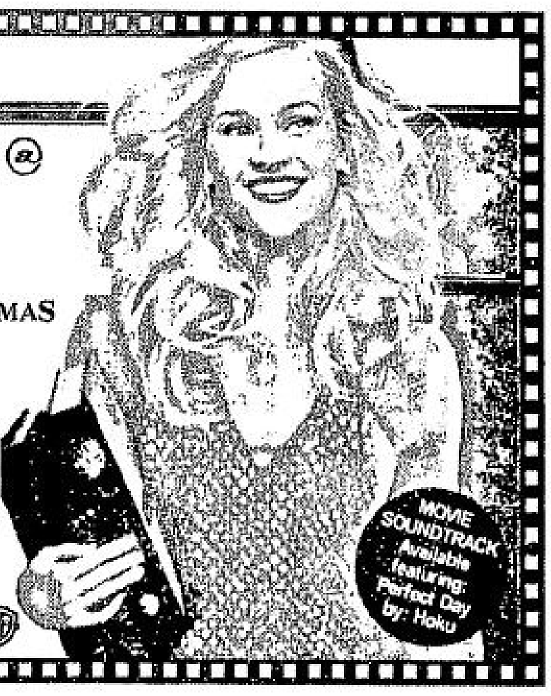

SM ADVANCE SCREENING CINEMA
It started as a joke.
Now the joke is on them.
STEVE ZAHN PAUL WALKER LEELEE SOBIESKI
JOY RIDE
Invitational Press Screening on Oct. 26, 2001 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 1
MTRCB RATING PG13
Regular showing starts Nov. 14 at the SM CINEMAS.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE BODY - P 13 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30	TRAINING DAY - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:10
AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	THIRTEEN DAYS - P 13 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
GHOSTS OF MARS
'Ghosts of Mars,' special effects-packed action-suspense thriller from John Carpenter
Mars, 2176 AD. Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the dangerous destiny of an over-populated Earth. 640,000 people now live and work at far-flung outposts all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources.
But one of those mining operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose terrifying warriors, now unleashed and unstoppable, are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders, bent on ridding the planet of the invaders from Earth.
Master of Terror John Carpenter ("Escape from L.A.," "Halloween," "Vampires") presents a new, special effects-packed action-adventure sci-fi thriller starring the sexy Natasha Henstridge ("Species") as Lt. Melanie Ballard of the Mars Police Force. "Ghosts of Mars" is a Columbia Pictures release
OPENS OCTOBER 31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ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Watch LEGALLY blonde @ AYALA CINEMAS
And win any of these: Legally Blonde soundtrack, premium items from U by Rustans, Timezone Game Passes, Italianni's Gift Certificates & Mossimo T-shirts & more!
PLUS! Join the LEGALLY BLONDE & Timezone Gold Card Launch Party featuring pop band:Strawberry Fields on Oct. 26, 7pm @ Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby
Don't miss the fun because exciting prizes & surprises are at stake!
LEGALLY BLONDE (MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13), w/c stars Reese Witherspoon, NOW SHOWING @ Ayala Cinemas!
Promo Period: Oct. 24 to Nov. 7, 2001.*See leaflets for complete details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1647. Series of 2001.
MOVIE SOUNDTRACK Available featuring: Perfect Day by: Hoku

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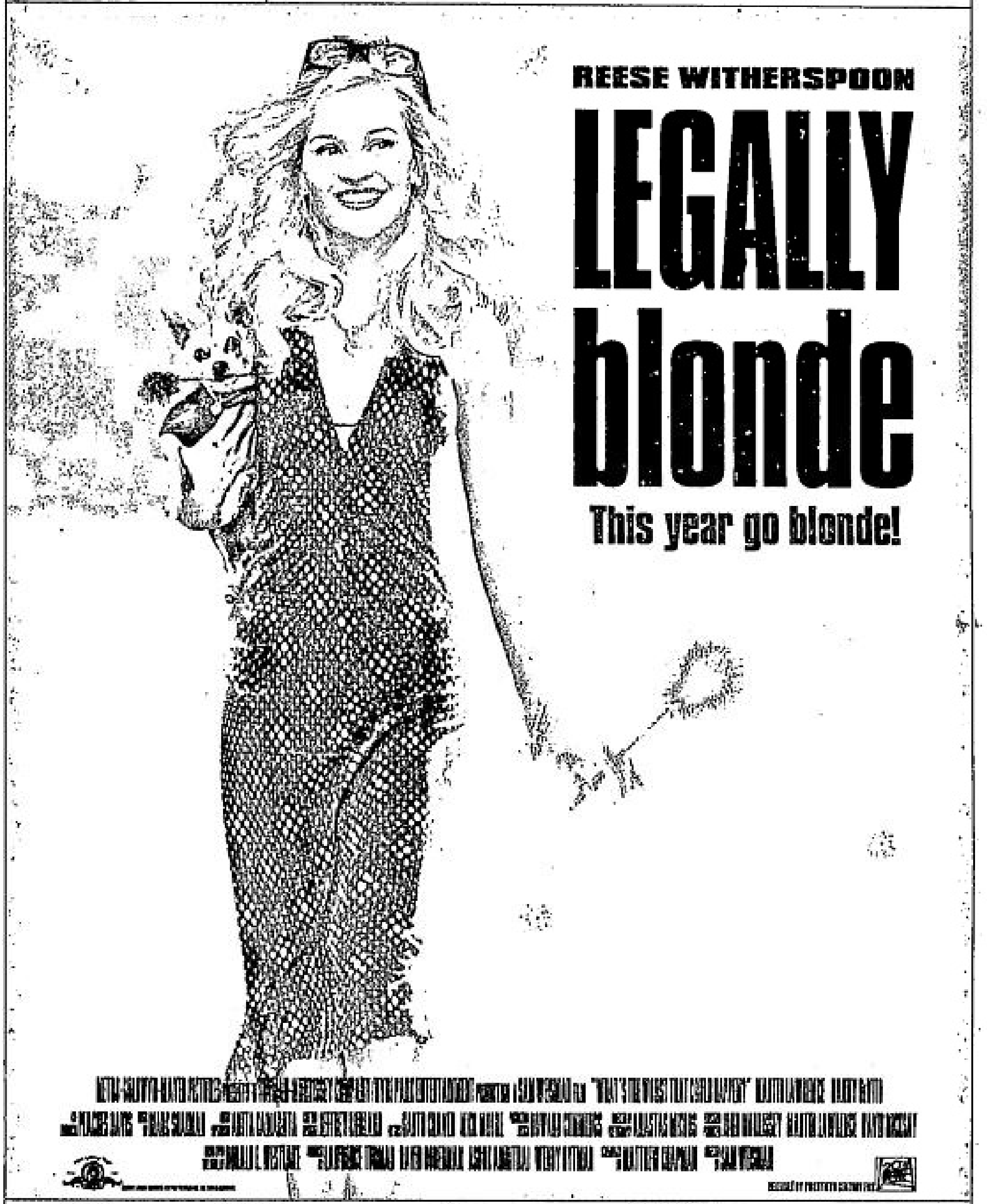

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AYALA CINEMAS ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4 Art Film
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No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
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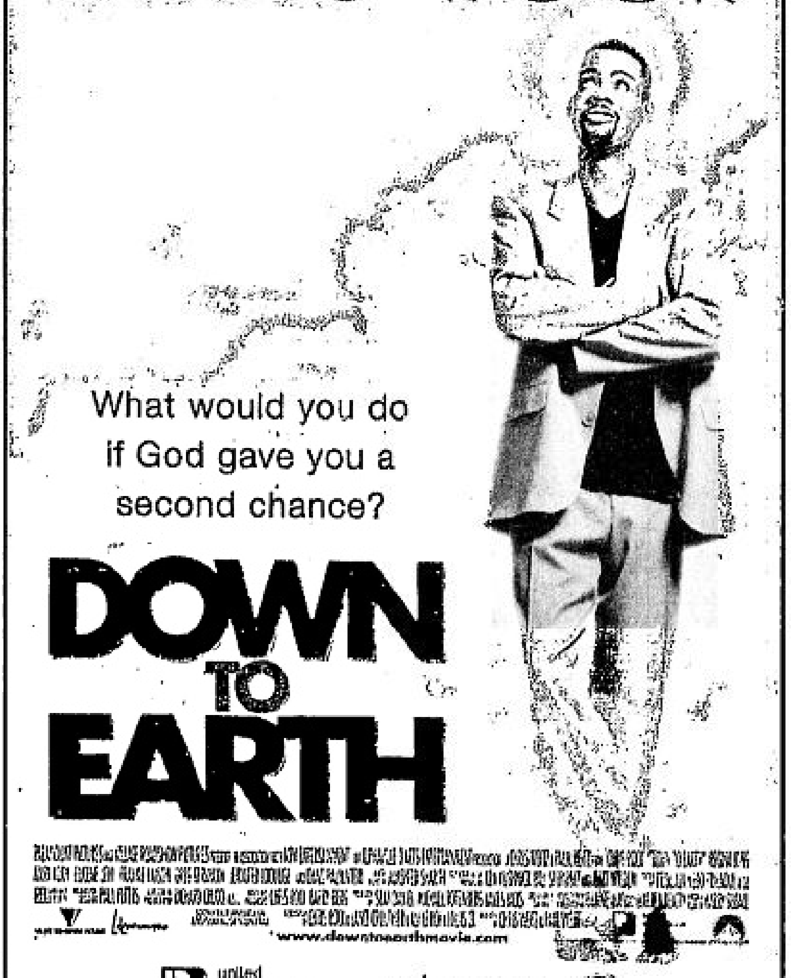
"TWO THUMBS UP!"
about Adam
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
stuart TOWNSEND frances O'CONNOR charlotte BRADLEY & kate HUDSON
He's the most outrageous secret three sisters ever kept... from each other.
about Adam
A Romantic Comedy About A Tale Of Familial Sexual Intrigue
Lucy Owens has terrible luck in love. While doing her routine of singing torch songs, waiting tables, and complaining about her love life, she meets Adam. The two exchange just one look and Lucy is ready to marry him. However, Adam proves to be unpredictable as he sets out to date Lucy's sisters, Alice and Laura. A waitress falls for a handsome customer who seduces her, her two sisters, her brother, and her brother's girlfriend.
Featured at the Sundance Film Festival.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



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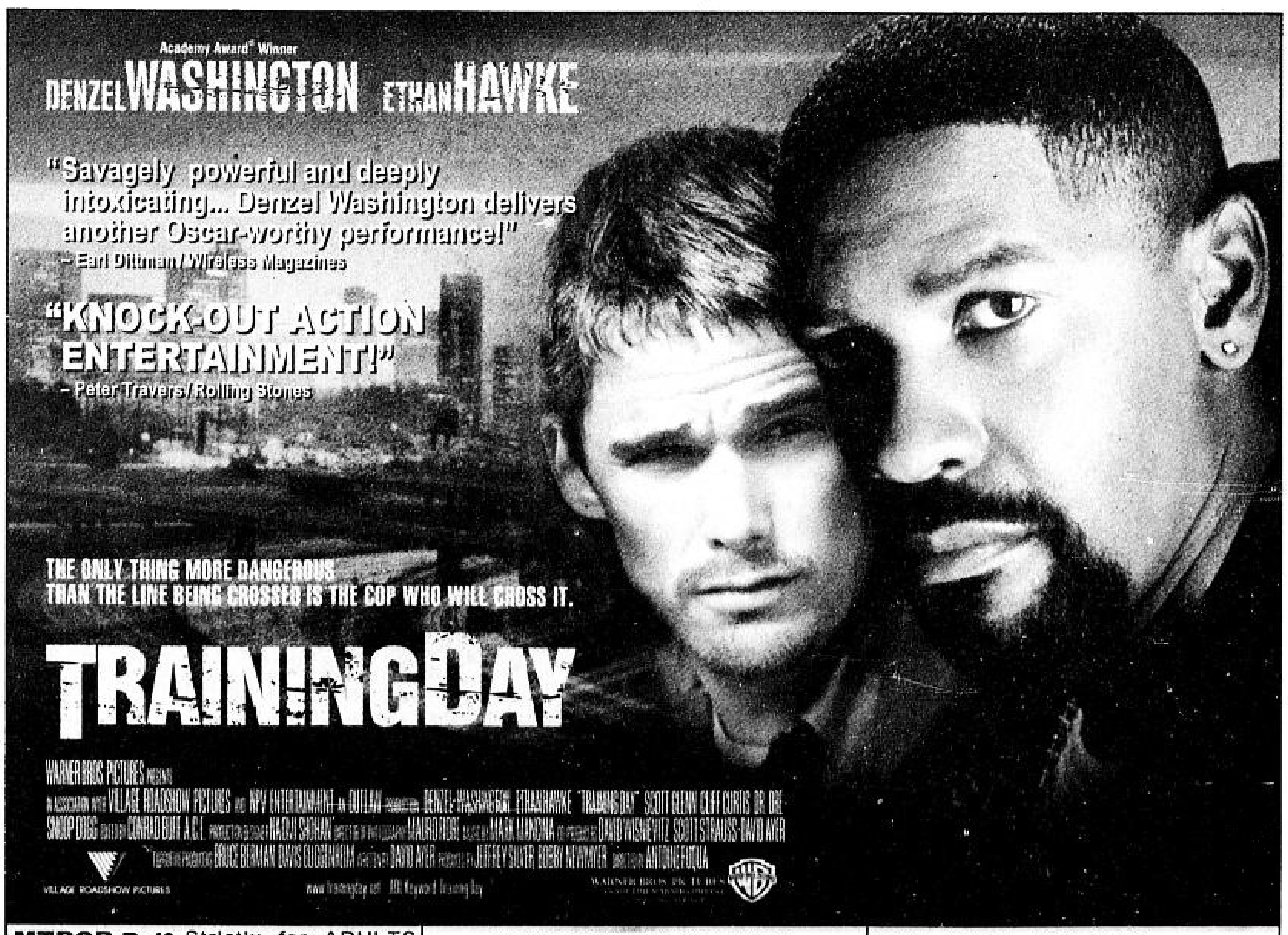

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"KNOCK-OUT ACTION ENTERTAINMENT!"
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FRIDAY,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
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Equitable PCI
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2-MONTH LOW AT P52-TO-$1 LEVEL

BSP chief sees continued volatility

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday warned that the peso could be volatile against the dollar in the coming months due to uncertainties related to the US-led strikes on Afghanistan.

The BSP chief said this as the peso closed yesterday to a two-month low of 52.01 to the dollar, lower than the previous day's 51.945 to $1 level.

Traders said the peso weakness could be attributed primarily to the depreciation of other regional currencies.

They said that talks about coup attempts against the current administration added pressure on the peso.

Buenaventura, however, said he was satisfied with the current movement of the peso, which has been range-bound between 51 and 52 to a dollar.

"We have to get used to a little bit of volatility in the next couple of months because the world is in confusion," he said in an interview with a local radio station.

Asked if the peso is likely to reach 52 to the dollar soon, Buenaventura said: "Let's say it does reach 52, we've been range-bound between 51 and 52 (to $1). That's a one-peso change, that's quite good."

He said that the BSP was wary of heeding the calls from the private sector economists to drastically lower the BSP's key overnight rates from the current 8.75 percent for borrowing and 11.0 percent for lending on fears of a sharp depreciation in the peso.

The BSP's Monetary Board yesterday decided to keep its key policy rates unchanged saying that the current rates were already low enough.

Buenaventura denied speculations that the BSP sold dollars in the market yesterday. Traders claimed that the BSP used about $40 million of the country's dwindling dollar reserves to protect the peso.

He said that the weakness of regional currencies were the reason for the peso's decline. Both the Japanese yen and the Thai baht performed sorely yesterday.

From 44.75 to a dollar, the baht slid to 44.87 while the yen declined to 123.14 from the previous day's close of 122.39.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is confident that the peso will bounce back by yearend. "The coup talks are just rumors and I hope the market will not use these rumors to add pressure on the peso," he said.

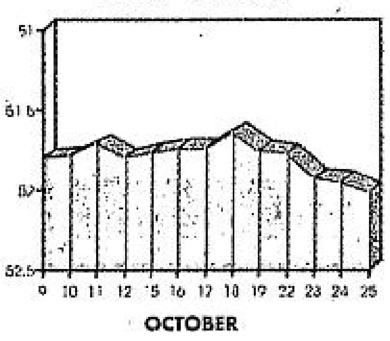
In July, the peso tumbled to 54.335 to $1, its lowest under the Macapagal administration. This forced the BSP to tighten its foreign exchange policies.

The Department of Finance vowed to accelerate its foreign borrowings and offer dollar-hedged debt notes to arm the central bank in its efforts to quell speculative attacks on the peso. *Reports from Clarissa S. Batino and Reuters*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

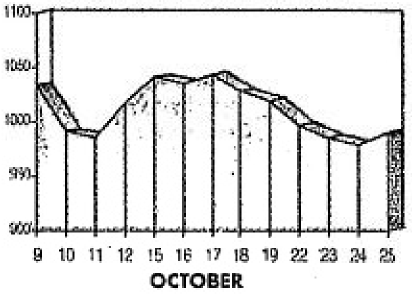
P 52.01 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 25, 2001

¥ 123.10 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 25, 2001

GOLD:$276.10/276.60
per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 25, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares up 1.1%

SHARES closed higher yesterday, as the market rebounded following five sessions of declines, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 10.63 points, or 1.1 percent, at 989.97.

On Wednesday, the index fell 0.9 percent to finish at 979.34 points, its lowest closing level since Oct. 10, 1991, when it ended at 977.105, based on the recalibrated data of the stock exchange. The bourse had to recalibrate its data following the merger of the country's two stock exchanges in 1993.

The Index lost 6.1 percent in the past five sessions. *Reuters*

SMC Q3 sales up 60%

SAN MIGUEL Corp. has posted consolidated net sales of P34.3 billion in the third quarter of 2001, up 60 percent from the same period last year.

This brings year-to-date September sales revenues to P91.7 billion, an increase of 44 percent from the year-ago level.

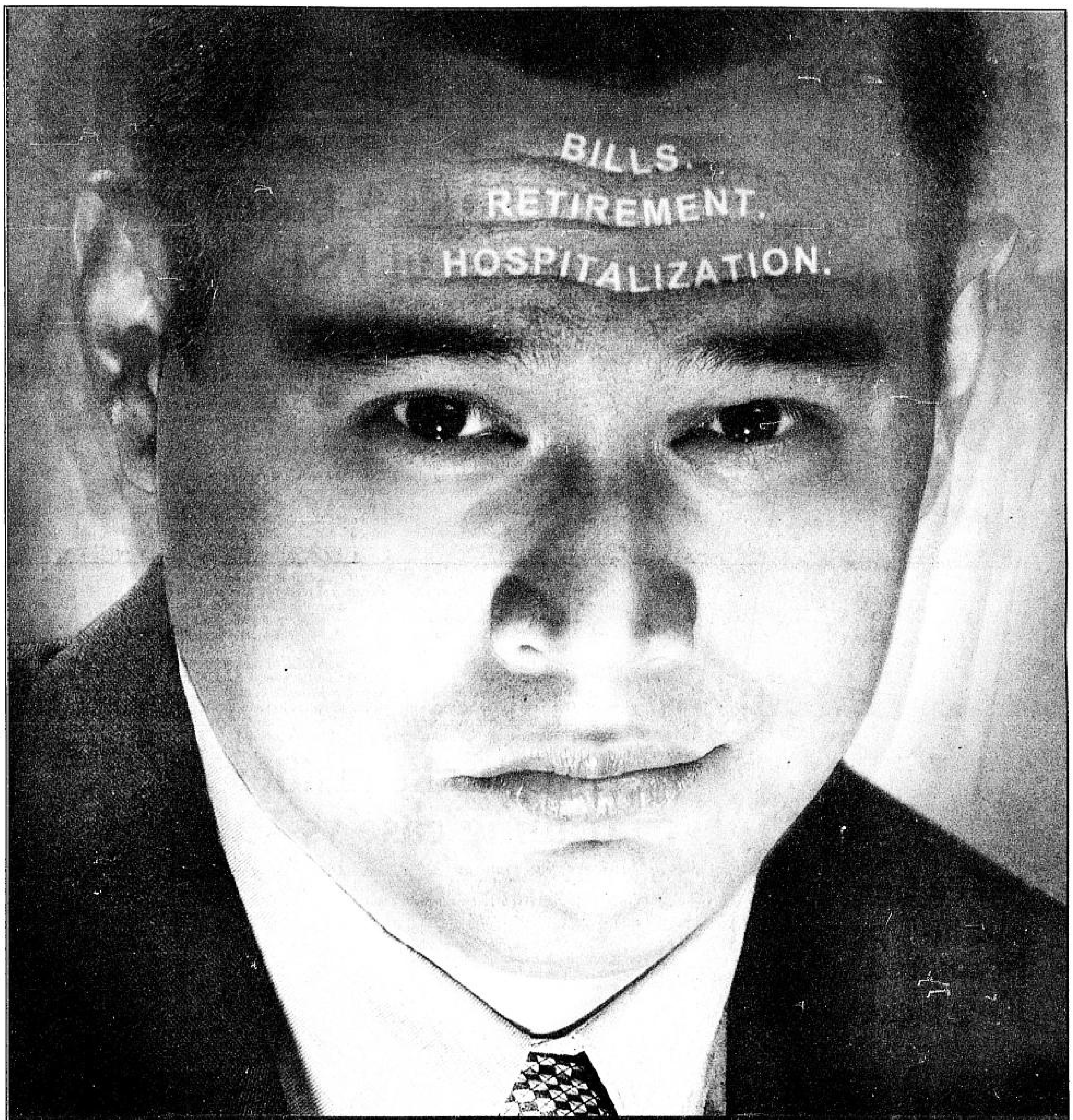
Year-to-date revenues of the existing businesses grew by P5.2 billion or 18 percent, primarily contributed by the Food Group, Beer International and the water and juice businesses of La Tondeña Distillers Inc.

Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) posted sales of P14.7 billion, while Pure Foods registered P8 billion.

The company's consolidated results include six months of Pure Foods—from April to September—and five months of CCBPI—from May to September.

The SMC Group's operating income from January to September amounted to P7.1 billion, up 28 percent from last year's P5.6 billion. Without CCBPI and Pure Foods, operating income reached P6 billion, an increase of 8 percent from the year-ago level. This is an achievement, considering the general businesses contraction across all industries and market segments.

Excluding CCBPI and Pure Foods, SMC's year-to-September net income would have been P5.31 billion, up 6 percent from last year's figure. with the short term income dilutive effect on CCBPI, the group ended the period with P4.8 billion in consolidated net income.



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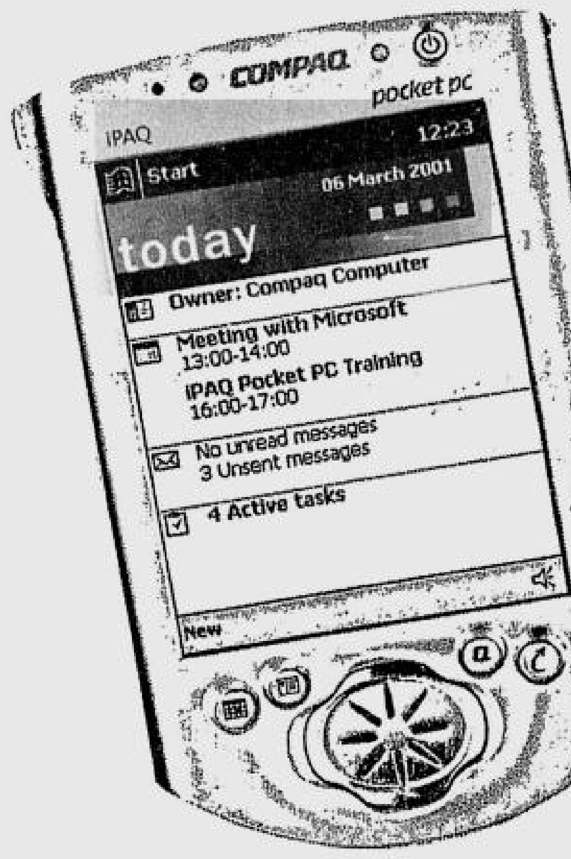

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PER DTI PERMIT NO. 1657 SERIES OF 2001

San Miguel, RFM close Cosmos deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. and RFM Corp. have finalized a definitive agreement on the sale of the latter's soft drink unit Cosmos Bottling Corp. for P14 billion.

RFM agreed to SMC's request for a P1-billion cut in its original offer of P15 billion for the 100-percent stake in Cosmos. This translates to a price per share of P6.09. RFM owns around 83 percent of Cosmos' outstanding shares.

In an interview yesterday, RFM president Jose Concepcion III said RFM accepted SMC's revised offer and that a share purchase agreement would likely be signed "within a couple of days."

The proceeds from the sale worth P14 billion will be equally distributed to each of Cosmos' 2.29 billion outstanding shares. The bottling company also has existing cash on hand worth P700 million to P800 million that will be distributed to shareholders in the form of dividends. This will increase by 20 to 30 centavos the total amount per share that will be generated under the agreement.

SMC earlier lowered its offer to RFM after factoring in the discounted value of some facilities that were no longer in top condition.

In a separate statement yesterday, SMC said its board has already approved the purchase of Cosmos through Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. and Atlanta-based Coca Cola Co.

Cosmos, maker of Pop Cola, Sarsi rootbeer and Jaz soft drink brands, is the country's second biggest soft drink bottling company next to CCBPI.

"The acquisition of Cosmos will allow us to offer even greater choice and value to our consumers," SMC chair and CEO Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. said.

"The acquisition of the Cosmos brands and Coke's carbonated and non-carbonated beverage brands is compelling. We anticipate substantial synergies through significant cost structure improvements. The acquisition will also gain for us access to new growth opportunities in the beverage industries," he added.

Concepcion said that aside from the valuation issue, nothing much has been changed in the terms of the sale that were previously agreed upon by both parties.

BSP OKs $-based trading at PSE

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has obtained the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' approval for the launching of a dollar-denominated trading (DDT) system subject to certain safeguards to prevent the facility from being used for speculative attacks against the local currency.

The DDT aims to enhance the PSE's trading infrastructure by holding an extended off-floor trading session in the afternoon for the securities of local companies that are also listed offshore. It also aims to prepare the local bourse for cross-border trading.

In a letter to PSE president Ramon T. Garcia dated Oct. 22, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the DDT was allowed by existing central bank guidelines subject to four major conditions.

Buenaventura said one of the conditions stated that: "Transactions under the facility shall not involve the purchase of foreign exchange from the banking system."

This means that investors will be required to obtain the dollars they will use for trading from their own foreign currency deposit units. This aims to prevent significant increases in the demand for foreign currencies which can exert pressure on the peso, PSE legal counsel Dennis Eala said in a press briefing yesterday.

The BSP earlier expressed concern that the proposed DDT could be used for dollar-salting since investors could trade in pesos in the morning and transact in dollars in the afternoon.

The other conditions provide the following:

- The PSE and the designated cash settlement bank shall submit weekly reports on the daily trading transactions under the DDT facility to the BSP through the international operations department using the forms that shall be prescribed for the purpose;
- The BSP shall be represented in any committee/body that shall be tasked to finalize the rules and procedures governing trading under the facility and/or make amendments thereon; and,
- The PSE shall review the facility after six months from opening of the facility to determine its impact on the capital market and submit such report to the BSP within 45 days after the end of said six-month period.

SEC junks insider trading case vs Yap

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has dismissed for lack of evidence the criminal complaint filed by Rep. Augusto Syjuco against Philippine Stock Exchange chair Felipe Yap for insider trading, SEC documents showed.

In his complaint last month, Syjuco alleged that Yap's strategic position as PSE chair and the purchase by family-owned companies of shares of Cosmos Bottling Corp. "showed reliance on material insider information."

F. Yap Securities and other companies controlled by the family of Yap bought a substantial amount of Cosmos shares on July 25, the day before the soft drink maker's parent firm RFM Corp. disclosed it had signed a memorandum of understanding to sell its stake in Cosmos to the San Miguel Corp. group.

"Based on the documents gathered and from interviews conducted, there is insufficient evidence to show that Mr. Felipe Yap was in possession of material non-public information and that this was disclosed to Yap Securities, or any of his family members, enabling the latter to buy Cosmos shares prior to dissemination," the SEC said.

"The records would show that no one had any advance information that a material resolution would be signed on July 26, 2001. The records would also show that F. Yap Securities was relying on research analysis of Yapster E-Trade which had recommended Cosmos as a buy as early as June," SEC added.

Court asked to stop IRC shareholders' meet

MAJOR shareholders of Interport Resources Corp. or IRC have asked the Pasig Regional Trial Court to stop the Securities and Exchange Commission from enforcing an order setting Interport's stockholders' meeting for Nov. 15 and the company's minority shareholders from holding the meeting on the said date.

In a petition filed with the Pasig RTC on Sept. 22, company president and stockholder Felipe B. Sese sought the issuance of a temporary restraining order and a writ of preliminary injunction against SEC lawyer Rosalina Tividad-Tesorio, who issued four orders setting the dates of IRC's stockholders' meeting (the last which set the meeting for Nov. 15 was issued on Sept. 18); minority shareholder T&M Holdings, and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., the company's stock and transfer agent.

Sese asked Pasig RTC Branch 158 Judge Jose R. Hernandez to junk all the four orders by Tesorio which were issued based on the petitions filed by T&M Holdings.

He claimed that the issue, being an intra-corporate dispute, was beyond the jurisdiction of the SEC.

He said that the Securities Regulation Code vested the regular courts with the exclusive jurisdiction over intra-corporate disputes and transferred all the quasi-judicial functions formerly exercised by the SEC to RTCs.

DISCLOSURES

UNION Cement Corp. lists today 9.000 of its common shares to cover its merger with **Bacnotan Cement Corp.** and **Davao Union Cement Corp.**

* * *

BENPRES Holdings Corp. denied reports that a definitive agreement had been reached between **Sky Vision Corp./ Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc.** and their creditors since financial plans were still being formulated.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. and **RFM Corp.** clarified that they were still in the middle of negotiations and that no definite agreement has been reached yet on the selling price of Cosmos. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, October 25, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	41	41.5	970,300
China Banking Corp.	525	525	525	525	270
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17	17.75	17	17.75	82,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	170	170	168	170	58,250
Philippine National Bank	47	47	47	47	339,700
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	3,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	6,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Sun Life Financial Serv.	995	1000	995	1000	1,720
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25.5	25	25.5	12,500
Globe Telecom Inc.	545	550	545	545	18,640
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.02	6,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	3.25	2.9	3.25	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	365	370	365	370	134,870
Ivantage Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	29,270,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	69,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21	21.25	21	21.25	48,100
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32	31.5	32	174,300
Petron Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	5,804,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.26	1.36	1.26	1.34	1,379,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.38	0.41	0.37	0.37	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	40,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	609,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	5,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	157,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	14,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24	24	24	1,000
Pancake House Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
RFM Corp.	1.94	1.96	1.94	1.94	222,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	39.5	39	39.5	77,000
San Miguel Corp. B	44.5	46	44.5	46	172,700
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	15,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.45	1,616,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	75,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	100,000
APC Group Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	39,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.63	0.65	2,300,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.14	0.145	680,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	300,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.25	22.75	22.25	22.25	2,200
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	24,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.57	560,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	640,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	50,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	4,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	110,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8.5	8	8.5	7,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	1,000,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26	26	26	26	93,900
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	520	520	500
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	560	560	560	560	1,970
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.004	0.0044	0.004	0.0042	44,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8.1	8	8	38,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.05	4.1	4.05	4.1	1,929,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	650,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	47,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	400,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	820,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	3,760,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.14	1.1	1.12	3,221,000
City & Land Developers	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	80,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	431,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	90,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	82,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0026	0.003	0.0026	0.003	11,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	2,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	11,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	15,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	70,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,462,540	69,202,425.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	205,802,880	119,242,380.00
PRO	11,478,000	15,153,450.00
Mining	120,830,000	2,007,400.00
OIL	17,070,000	82,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	356,643,420	205,688,155.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	393.36	UP 2.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,407.40	UP 17.73
PRO	415.32	UP 0.89
Mining	1,019.35	DOWN 16.98
OIL	1.39	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	620.35	UP 2.36
Composite	989.97	UP 10.63

NO. OF ADVANCES: 24; NO. OF DECLINES: 18; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 41; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 83; NO. OF TRADES: 1,204

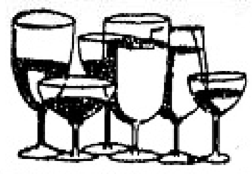
CURRENCIES

Oct 25, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US$	Foreign currency In Peso
United States	Dollar	1.118693	1.000000	51.8970
Japan	Yen	1.127797	1.008138	52.3193
United Kingdom	Pound	1.598837	1.429200	74.1712
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143607	0.128370	6.6620
Switzerland	Franc	0.675131	0.603500	31.3198
Canada	Dollar	0.710959	0.635526	32.9819
Singapore	Dollar	0.612479	0.547495	28.4133
Australia	Dollar	0.567864	0.507614	26.3436
Bahrain	Dinar	2.967514	2.652661	137.6651
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298319	0.266667	13.8392
Brunei	Dollar	0.611308	0.546448	28.3590
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.000098	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.024993	0.022341	1.1594
UAE	Dirham	0.304655	0.272331	14.1332
Korea	Won	0.000867	0.000775	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.893900	46.3907
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.457044	23.7192
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136274	7.0722
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.405634	21.0512
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064962	3.3713
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022159	1.1500
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000462	0.0240
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150343	7.8024
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004459	0.2314
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005372	0.2788
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022159	1.1500
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.135019	58.9041

Sulking cocoon

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

SILK COCOON, the high couture shop that launched Philippine silk in the fashion capitals of the world, has lost its talented technical designer/partner in a bitter ownership dispute that has now reached the courts.

Award-winning textile designer Eun Il Lee is now suing his local partner, fashion designer Jeannie Goulborn, after Goulborn took complete management control and ousted the Korean from even the Mandaluyong loom company that Lee organized to supply fabrics to Silk Cocoon.

Goulborn became a partner in 1994 in Lee's Neilino Silk, the Mandaluyong silk factory that Lee set up after getting a BS Tourism degree from the University of the Philippines in 1990.

According to the legal grapevine, the partnership was supposed to have been on a 50-50 basis but, on record, was made out to be 60-40 in favor of Goulborn in order to comply with the constitutional ceiling on foreign ownership.

Shortly after the partnership was sealed, Silk Cocoon was opened in early 1995 to serve as an outlet for Neilino's fabrics. Silk Cocoon maintains a shop/showroom in Makati's New World Renaissance.

Initially, the partnership went well, enabling Goulborn, who is into designer clothes, to branch out into home textile and furnishings, Lee's expertise.

The partnership reached its apex when 18 heads of states who attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference in Subic in

COCKTALES/ B5

Maso losing support

THE PHILIPPINE Skylanders Inc., an international cargo-handling company, has expressed interest in continuing its international cargo-handling services in the soon-to-open Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

In a letter to the MIA-Naia Association of Service Operators (Maso), PSI representative Jennifer Bote said her company's interests lied only in continuing to provide cargo-handling services to its foreign airline clients who would eventually transfer their operations to Naia-3.

Another Maso member, Cargo Haus Inc., recently withdrew its membership from the organization.

In a letter to Maso president Jovencio Lorenzo, Cargo Haus president Rudy Fulo said the company withdrew their membership because of "certain considerations."

Fulo also expressed hope that the discord between the parties concerned regarding Naia-3 would be straightened out.

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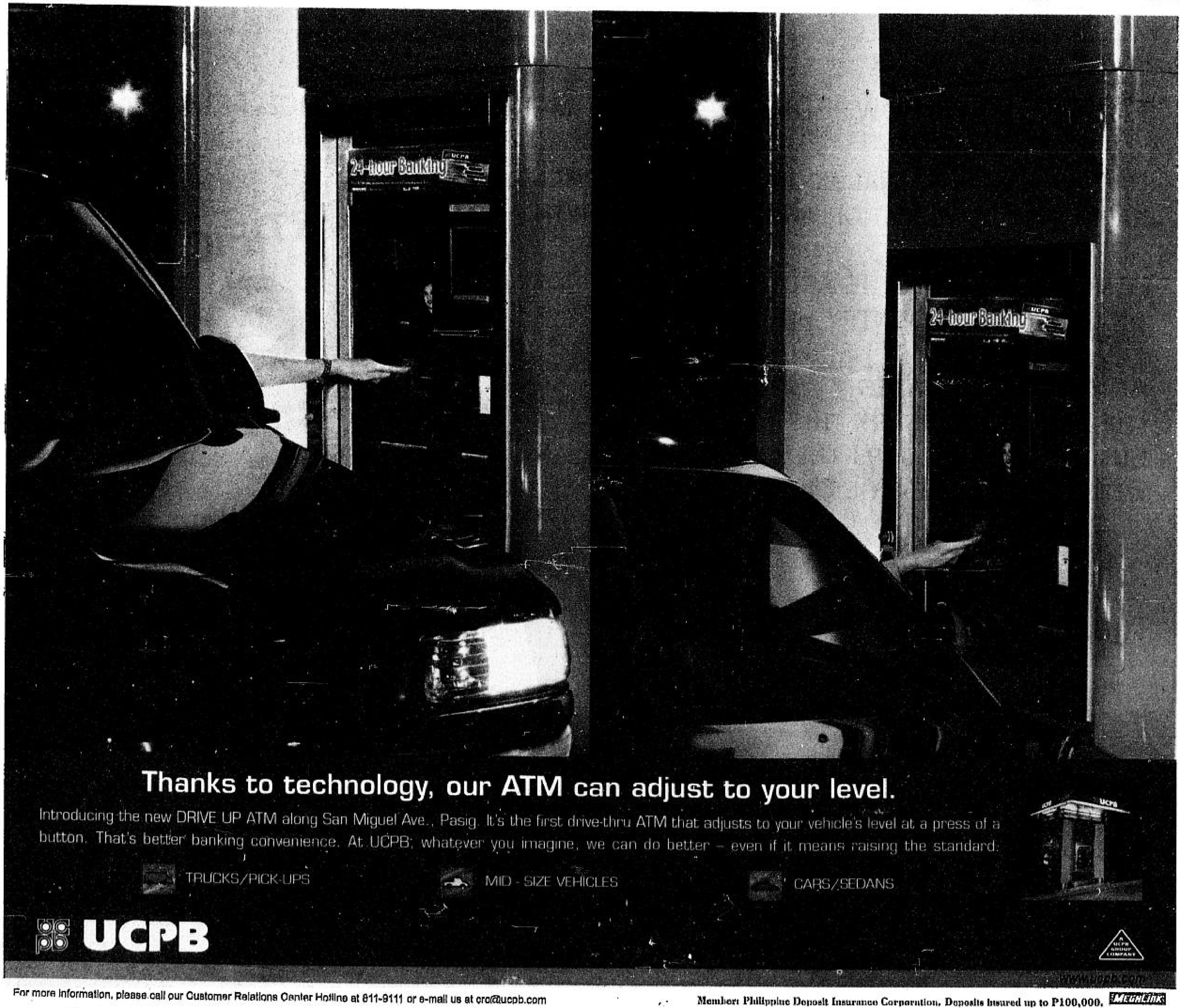

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Sky, Home engage Star TV in ad war

By ABIGAIL L. HO

SKY Vision Corp. and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Corp. have decided to engage Star Group Ltd. in an advertising war.

Sky and Home are putting out today a paid ad in major dailies to refute Star's own ad explaining that it has pulled the plug on the cable operators because of debts reaching P160 million.

"The issue is Star's new rates, not our arrears," the two companies said.

In their ad, Sky and Home insist that they have never denied that they owe Star millions in unpaid fees.

However, they point out that their debts to Star grew "precisely because of our not being able to afford the continuing escalation in dollar terms of programming costs, even as subscription fees were collected in devalued peso terms."

Star pulled the plug on the country's top two cable television providers over unpaid fees.

The withdrawal of the service deprived Filipino viewers of nine channels, including sports amid the popular Major League Baseball post-season and ahead of Michael Jordan's return from retirement in the National Basketball Association.

Star regional director Charles Pollard said in a statement that supply was "indefinitely suspended" over the cable systems' "non-payment of millions of dollars of fees" to Star.

"Some of these debts date back to last year," he said. "We hope that the matter will be resolved quickly and the normal service will be resumed."

Star is News Corp.'s Asian satellite television and multimedia arm.

Sky and Home charged in a joint statement that Star was "trying to bully us into buying a bundle of six channels on a 'take-all-or-nothing' basis,'" when the two only wanted Star Sports, Star Movies and ESPN.

The two cable providers, which joined operations earlier this year, said they could not afford the new contract terms worth $10 million, up from $5.5 million dollars for five channels.

In their new ad, Sky and Home reiterate that they were "cut off for not accepting (Star's) 'take-all-or-nothing' proposal."

"In fact, Star was willing to reschedule the payment of the arrears had Sky and Home Cable agreed to these terms. It was to pressure us to accept their terms that they cut programming, not because of arrears," they said in their statement.

The ad also contained an excerpt from a letter that Star's Pollard allegedly wrote less than two hours before Star cut off its signals.

"The offer is not even close enough to the figure we are seeking. We will therefore indefinitely suspend access to all our channels and services on all your systems and affiliates . . . until an agreement on pricing and all arrears is reached," Pollard was quoted as saying in his letter.

Star said earlier it was still open to negotiations with Sky, Home and, another cable company, Pilipino Cable Corp., despite its decision to pull out its popular channels from these cable operators' list of programs.

"Our doors are still open," Star vice president for distribution David Ilagan said, but he stressed that these cable TV operators would have to show "good faith."

"We've been negotiating with Home and Sky for close to a year now, and we've gotten nowhere," Ilagan said.

"We were told unequivocally by both parties that there was no prospect of their debt being cleared this year. We were also told that there was no prospect of any further fees for October, November and December being paid this year," he added.

Ilagan disclosed that Sky and Home earlier agreed to pay their fees on a monthly instead of an annual basis, but the two companies were unable to live up to their commitments.

Last week, he said, Sky and Home informed Star that their fees would no longer be kept current.

Disputing claims that Star withdrew its programs abruptly, Ilagan said Star decided on this course of action only after issuing several written notices to Sky, Home and Pilipino Cable.

Capwire scuttles talks with investors

CAPITAL Wireless Inc. has deferred until early next year talks with potential financial and technology partners because of unresolved problems with its creditors.

In an interview on Wednesday, Capwire chief operating officer Maureen Santiago said negotiations with at least three investors in Asia and the United States were scuttled.

"They haven't turned their backs on us. We told them we can't firm up our projections because of the problem with the banks. We stopped all talks since the filing of the case in court. Hopefully we'll be able to start again early next year," Santiago told the INQUIRER.

Before it started its new fiscal year in July this year, Capwire submitted to its creditors a revised business plan that included revised restructuring terms for almost P1 billion in debts.

The company asked for a longer grace period and reduced interest payments because of tough economic times.

Its creditors, however, brought the case to the Makati Regional Trial Court where they filed a motion for Capwire to be put under receivership.

The court has yet to ruled on the case.

Negotiations with prospective partners will continue when the issue is resolved. In the meantime, Capwire has applied some cost-cutting measures to help reduce its net loss numbers.

"Last fiscal year, we implemented a voluntary staff reduction program. We project a savings of around 10 percent per year or around P6 million because of this," Capwire chief finance officer Joel Aguilar said.

He said the company had already let go of 17 people since the implementation of the program, but Capwire would still be hiring people who could contribute more to the company's growth.

It has also rationalized its network by reducing as much as 20 percent on the cost of its leased facilities.

Aguilar said there was no possibility of an asset sale to generate revenue as its around P1.9 billion in assets had all been given as collateral to its creditor banks.

Abigail L. Ho

Between the devil and the deep blue sea

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THOSE who cry for blood and demand for the abolition of the wage boards are totally missing the point. They must be blinded by spite and the disillusionment. They need to retrieve their sense of equanimity if they are to engage in a clash of wit and reason.

Those, on the other hand, who blindly defend the status quo and extol to high heavens the virginal virtues of the wage boards are likewise out of focus. They must be afflicted with a malignant stage of myopia, with intermittent attacks of blindness to the raging realities of these turbulent times. They need to open their eyes.

Much ado after

The rest of us, uncaring and unknowing humanity, including a substantial number of media practitioners both in print and broadcast, are so overwhelmed by our respective biases, so preoccupied with our spontaneous outbursts, that we often forget to consider the facts and examine the wage issue in the context of both its antecedents and its consequences. We must pray for the gifts of discernment and wisdom.

This spectacle of a post-wage order brouhaha is becoming a pattern, even monotonous. We've heard this before. If we don't break this crazy cycle, we'll hear this over and over again, and like the song "Windmills of Your Mind," this is getting to be like a circle in a spiral, like a wheel within a wheel, never ending nor beginning.

Labor pains

Why does labor always act like a crybaby when, insofar as the latest issuance is concerned, its own representative in the NCR wage board, German Pascua Jr., signed NCR Wage Order 09 on Oct. 19, 2001. He concurred, albeit with reservation. But his was the swing vote. Without it, there was no way the three government representatives could have gotten a majority vote. Thus, labor is under estoppel. They have to ask Pascua to explain his vote.

There is something wrong with labor's representatives. Since they are appointed by the President and not elected by all union members in the region, they are beholden to the appointing power. They are not vested with an explicit accountability to the workers.

If they betray the employees' interests, there must be a system of recall to terminate their unauthorized decisions and betrayal.

Employers' ploy

The employers' dissent was limited to the ceiling of P290. They wanted P250 rather than P290. They were nitpicking or hair-splitting a measly sum of P40 as if it was P40 million. The employers' apologists are painting the town red with radio and TV interviews, both decrying the issuance of the order and pledging support for cooperation in its compliance. They should keep their cool. Anyway, the wage order is a victory for capital.

Employers are always caught with this pattern of corporate diplomacy, trying to please both Ecop's members and Malacañang, which annually sends Ecop bigwigs to Geneva at the expense of the government, of course.

Employers should not make any noise. Otherwise, labor's dissent may gain momentum and create a social eruption.

Reform, not abolition

The wage boards' task always put them between Scylia and Charybides. They are always criticized because, to labor, the amount is always too small and too late. To employers, it is forever too big and too frequent. The latest wage order has achieved for the board of NCR a monumental success. It has united labor and capital in attacking the order itself.

Since there is no other viable wage-formulation mechanism at the moment, we may have to contend ourselves with the boards. The need for some reforms though, should not be ignored, and the labor department should consider strongly the adoption of some innovations via structural change and/or overhaul of the present membership.

Proposed changes

We propose that the boards' members should be elected by their own sectors, except the government, who should be chosen by the labor secretary, not the President, who is very political. We propose, too, that there should be an institutionalized system of prior consultation with the respective constituencies before a proposed wage order is voted on.

We suggest that government representation should only be one, the DOLE regional director. The others should be mere technical consultants, not voting members. We propose that wage boards must have specific deadlines and must explain to the people for any delay or premature issuance.

All wage, no productivity

The boards have forgotten apparently that they are tripartite wages and productivity boards. In all their past actions, they focus solely on wage formulations. They have not touched on productivity. The boards, thus, feed on the mendicant mindset of some workers who think they are entitled to things without working for them.

The regional boards have not formulated a national agenda to improve the overall performance of our business via productivity enhancing mechanisms. The boards have failed to perform on the productivity side of its twin thrusts.

Change the board members

There are wage boards members who have cornered their representation via connections and politics. Not only that, they have virtually perpetrated themselves in power. They need to leave the boards and allow new blood to come in.

The sectors' representatives should be men and women of technical competence and integrity. They should be screened very rigidly. Their honesty should be discerned closely by their respective sectors. If they don't behave, they should be recalled and changed.

In the meanwhile, it is incumbent upon us to strive hard to help our country and protect the viability of the business as well as promote the job security, the welfare and quality of life of our working masses. We can start by reengineering the wage boards. And making it focus on productivity, too. If we can't find a better alternative, let us make them workable and effective. And let's be quick on it.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephusjimenez@pcppi.com.ph.)

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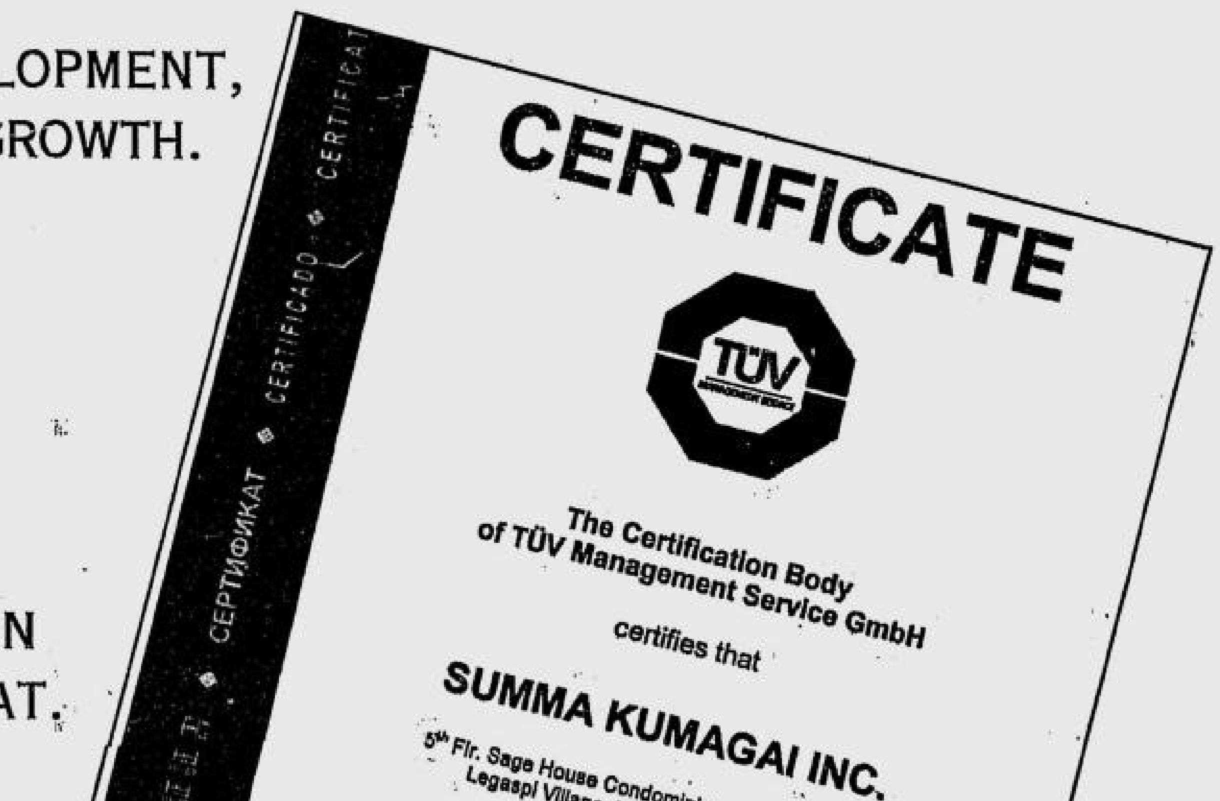

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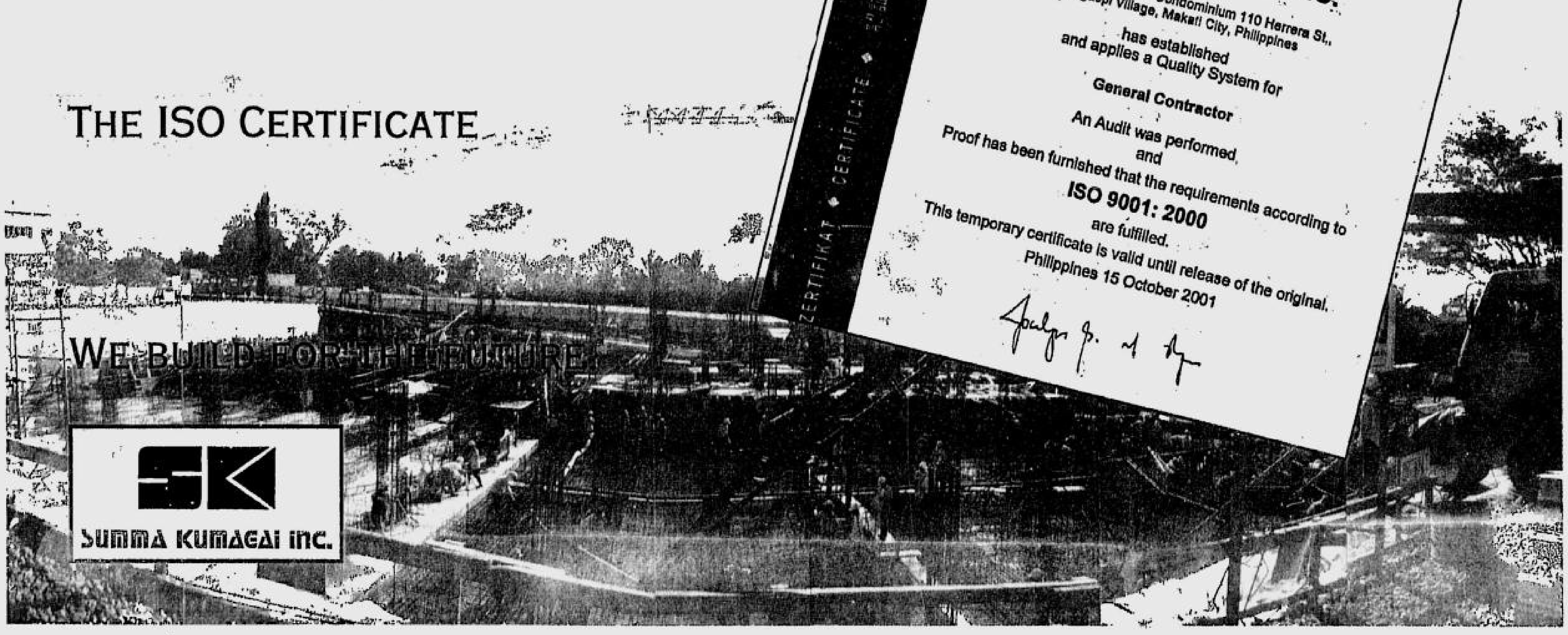

WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

summa kumagai inc.

3 groups tender offer to rehabilitate NSC

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THREE investor groups—local firms Cathay Pacific Steel Corp., Allengoal Steel Fabrication Trading Co. and Voest Alpine of Austria—yesterday submitted their formal offers to lease, rehabilitate and operate facilities of National Steel Corp. in Iligan City.

This was a major breakthrough for the Department of Trade and Industry. In May, the DTI formed an evaluation committee that would adopt a lease contract to reopen NSC on an interim basis while its majority owner, Hottick Investment-Renong, and creditors led by Philippine National Bank looked for a mutually acceptable way to take over the company.

The evaluation committee will start evaluating the offers by Monday. It is likely to announce its choice early next month.

Capasco is a major local steelmaker owned by Filipino-Chinese businessmen Benjamin Chua and John Ng.

Voest Alpine used to control Semirara Coal Corp.

Allengoal is a little-known steel trading firm owned by Cagayan de Oro businessman Alexander Delmo.

Glencore International, which controls Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp., previously expressed interest in NSC, but it did not submit any offer yesterday.

Capasco and Voest Alpine were widely expected to make an offer for NSC after attending the aborted bidding on Oct. 23, while Allengoal surprised not a few when it beat its 5 p.m. deadline.

Allengoal previously threatened to block the committee's moves to seek a leaseholder for NSC, as it continued to claim that its contract signed with

BOOSTING INVENTORIES

Manufacturing output up 2.2%

By Doris C. Dumlao

HIGHER demand due to the stockpiling of inventories for the Christmas season allowed key manufacturing industries to post a 2.2-percent growth in production last August ending a four-month slump.

The August production level marked a big improvement compared with the 4.9-percent contraction registered in July.

However, the relief is seen as temporary as the August manufacturing volume has yet to reflect the impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States on the global economy.

The modest improvement in August was achieved despite the shrinking export receipts. This indicates a strong domestic consumption.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the volume of production index recorded by the country's key manufacturing industries picked up in August, led by the double-digit growth posted by the footwear and wearing apparel and petroleum sectors that rose 59.7 percent and 19.8 percent, respectively.

Other gainers include those involved in food manufacturing, chemical products, transport equipment, non-metallic products, leather products and wood businesses.

The leather manufacturing sector again posted the biggest increment at 159.7 percent as it benefited from the market's shift to local products due to the higher peso-dollar exchange rate.

Among the biggest losers were the manufacturers of export-oriented and import-dependent products such as paper and paper products, textile, electrical machinery, fabricated materials, publishing and printing and rubber products.

Manufacturers of non-basic consumer goods that are highly dependent on domestic consumption like beverage and tobacco also registered a decline in production in view of the difficult economic environment.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the manufacturing volume would likely contract again in the succeeding months.

"I think manufacturers had some production backlog that had to be filled up during the month. If you look at import levels for the third quarter, this won't be sustainable. With the uncertainties after the Sept. 11 attacks, manufacturers are aware that the consumers want to keep their money in their pockets," Vistan said.

First Orient Securities head of research Rolando Pineda said that based on recent retrenchment figures, volumes were not likely to remain robust for the rest of the year.

"We're practically resigned to the fact that this year, we will simply consolidate, but maybe we are nearly bottoming out," Pineda said.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said the increase in manufacturing volume in August was a welcome respite amidst concerns that the influx of cheap consumer goods from China was slowly killing local industries.

The value of production index likewise posted a higher growth of 15.2 percent in August from 8.7 percent in July. The sectors that posted double digit increases were petroleum products, chemical products, transport equipment, non-metallic mineral products, basic metals and tobacco.

Cocktales

(From page B3)

November 1996 all wore *barong Tagalog* made by Silk Cocoon.

It was not immediately clear what triggered the falling out afterwards, but that it coincided with Goulborn applying for foreign copyright ownership for Silk Cocoon under her own name instead of applying for the trademark under the corporate partnership with Lee.

The matter came to a head in March after Lee was eased out as president and director from the company he started, and Goulborn took over together with her sister, Frances Lim, and daughter, fashion designer Katrina Goulborn.

Despite the high profiles of the personalities involved, the dispute has escaped press attention all these months, in part because of third parties and lawyers trying to forge out an amicable solution between the two talented and equally driven ex-partners.

According to the legal grapevine, Goulborn has already replaced four law firms since the dispute broke out, largely due to her dissatisfaction on the buy-out proposals that her lawyers had crafted with Lee's lawyers.

Best scholarships by far

DESPITE its stock market losses, the Ford Foundation is resuming its scholarship programs in the Philippines in a big way.

The US foundation has committed to fund 20 to 40 bright but poor students this year for their masteral/graduate studies in any school of their choice anywhere in the world.

Better still, Ford Foundation has set no age limit for applicants, a radical departure from existing grants.

The foundation is specifically looking for candidates with leadership, rather than academic, potentials who come from "a background that has lacked socioeconomic and educational opportunities."

The post-baccalaureate courses eligible for the grants, which provide up to three years of support, cover studies in community development, development finance, health, education, media, the humanities and governance.

The fellowship program is being administered by the Philippine Social Science Council, which may be reached for additional details and application forms by e-mail at *pssc@skyinet.net.*

The local administrator of Ford Foundation, incidentally, is a former public grade school teacher who rose through the ranks of the finance department after being selected by the foundation to pursue higher studies in economics, none other than ex-Undersecretary Milwida Guevarra.

Missing Miss Iloilo

COCKTALES was unable to provide details in time for Wednesday's deadline about Miss Iloilo, the Lopez yacht that is now on the bloc.

Now we have them.

The 96-footer motor yacht was made by a Vancouver shipyard, Crescent Custom Yachts, and launched in 1998. Designed by Jack W. Sarin, Miss Iloilo features five guest staterooms and two crew rooms.

The yacht was delivered in San Francisco, where then ABS-CBN patriarch, Eugenio Lopez Jr. (not Lopez III as reported Wednesday), took it around the Bay Area for leisurely spins while undergoing treatment.

In addition to Miss Iloilo, which is considered personal to the late Mr. Geny, the ABS-CBN itself has its own corporate yacht that the broadcast giant has decided to keep for its marketing support.

Heard through the grapevine

MANILA Hotel chair Emilio Yap the other day made a big splash in his newspaper about the Manila Hotel meeting of taipans and business tycoons initiated by his company spokesperson, Sen. Blas Ople.

The meeting was held to find ways on how to revive the economy and the government's flagging fortunes.

The funny thing about the whole exercise is that the Yap-owned hotel itself is one of the biggest loan-dodgers of the GSIS, while, at the same time, Yap continues to spend fortunes refurbishing another white elephant along San Marcelino Street.

The bigger anomaly, of course, is that the supposed tough-talking GSIS president, Winston Garcia, acts like a kitten instead of an outraged public servant before the imperious Yap.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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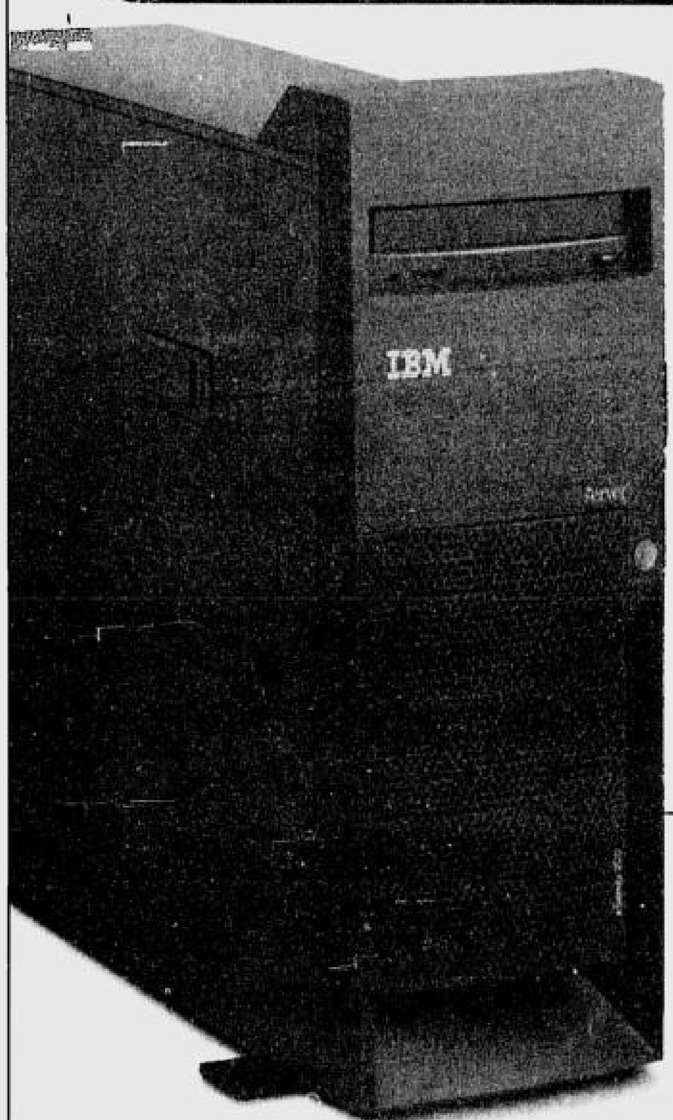

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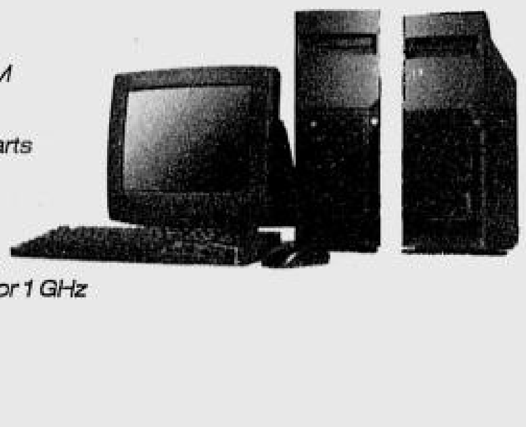

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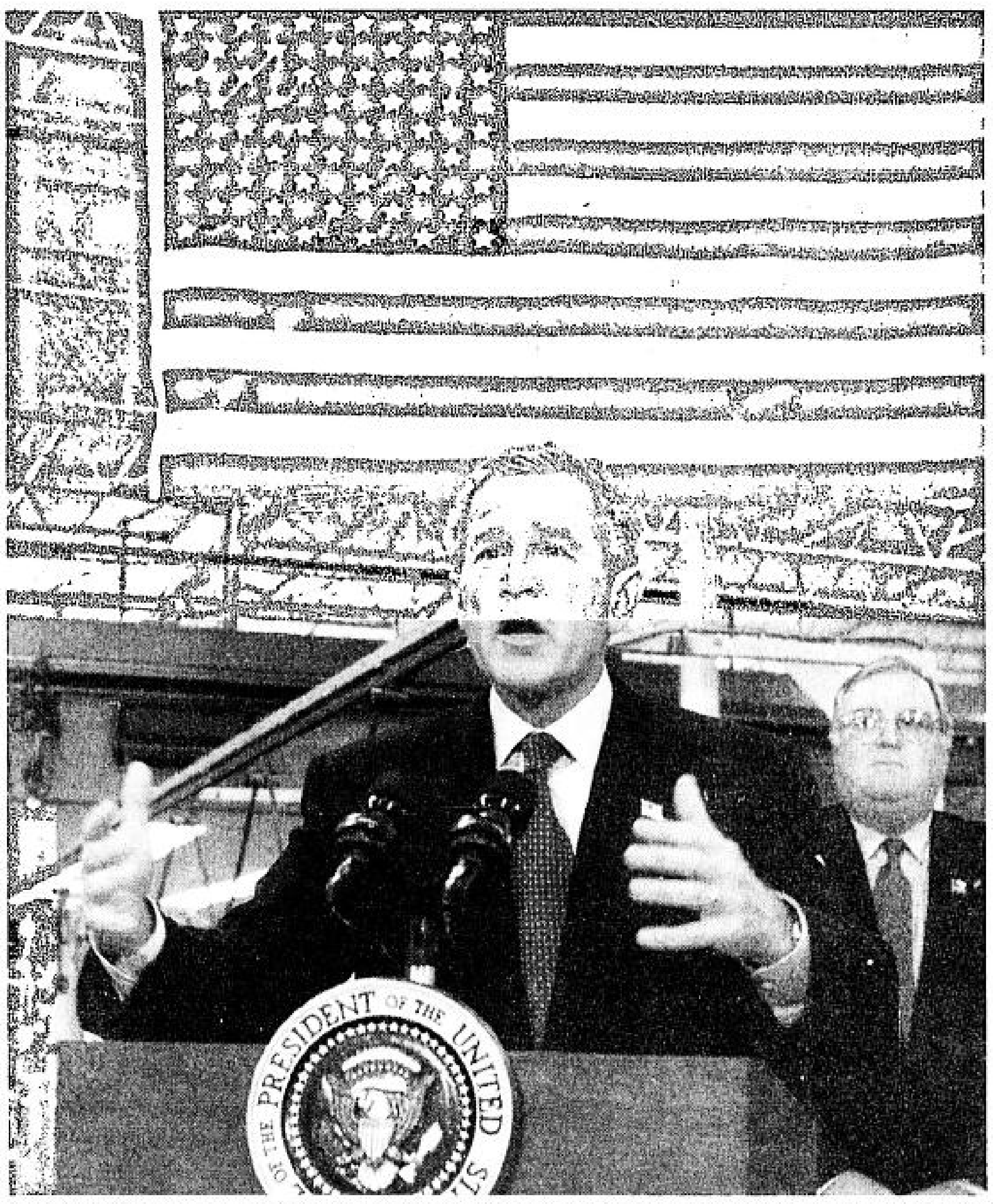


IN A SPEECH, to promote his business stimulus agenda, President George W. Bush tells employees of Dixie Printing and Packaging Corp. in Glen Burnie, Md., that America's economy will not be crippled by terrorists. AP

Greenspan: Don't let fear disrupt economy

WASHINGTON—Fear of terrorism must not be permitted to paralyze the global economy or hamper progress, Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan said on Wednesday.

"If we allow terrorism to undermine our freedom of action, we could reverse at least part of the palpable gains achieved by postwar globalization. It is incumbent upon us not to allow that to happen," the Fed chief told a dinner meeting of the Institute for International Economics in Washington.

Greenspan said that in the wake of the devastating Sept. 11 attacks, the anti-globalization movement has muted its protests but that it was only a matter of time before these resumed.

Anxiety stemming from the attacks on Washington and New York poses immediate risks to the smooth functioning of the world economy because of "the potential to induce disengagement from activities, both domestic and cross border," warned Greenspan, an ardent proponent of free trade.

He urged the Bush administration to press ahead with efforts to further open world markets and said that this would illustrate determination not to be cowed by terrorism.

"The differences to be resolved in such talks are small relative to the larger issue of maintaining our freedoms to travel and trade on a global scale," Greenspan said.

The World Trade Organization, which includes 142 countries, meets in Qatar on Nov. 9-13 to try to launch a new round of trade liberalization talks. US lawmakers have said they will attend regardless of security concerns.

In wide-ranging and often philosophical remarks highlighting the gains—real and potential—from freer trade and globalization, Greenspan offered some cautionary words to emerging-market countries and those who lend to them.

He compared the debt crises faced by some developing countries in recent decades to a run on a bank—saying it was vital that these nations build up a cushion of reserves to bolster confidence in their financial soundness.

"It can readily be argued that certain conditions of stress increase the probability of emerging-market country default and potential 'contagion," Greenspan said, without singling out any countries.

In particular, he said that excessive short-term lending to emerging-market countries to fund long-term needs was "a tinder awaiting conflagration."

Greenspan added: "This is especially the case if foreign currency reserves are inadequate and exchange rates are fixed."

Argentina, which is mired in an ongoing economic slump and which has a currency board regime that pegs the peso at par with the US dollar, has faced a problem of shrinking international reserves for some time. Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo was in New York on Wednesday and met Federal Reserve Bank of New York President William McDonough.

Greenspan said emerging countries would enhance their chances of achieving economic stability if they endorsed freer trade and forged closer ties with other countries.

"Contrary to much current opinion, developing countries need more globalization, not less," he said. The single most important thing that industrial countries could do to help reduce poverty in developing nations "would be to open, unilaterally, markets to imports from those countries," Greenspan said.

Anti-globalization protesters, who prior to the Sept. 11 attacks were staging increasingly fierce demonstrations at international gatherings, have said that international companies exploit workers in poorer countries.

During a question-and-answer session, Greenspan acknowledged that expanded global trade carries costs, such as the loss of jobs in outmoded industries. But he said those costs get more publicity without recognition of the greater gains for society in the form of increased global wealth.

But he said global policymakers were aware of the potential gains and seemed prepared to push for freer trade.

"I'm hopeful. I think the economic pressures and incentives are there. I think that there is indeed a strong desire among most policymakers in the world to take this very abstract notion of international trade and put their support behind it," Greenspan said. *Reuters*

South Korea's central bank sees economic recovery in late 2002

SEOUL—The central Bank of Korea warned Thursday that South Korea's economy would recover only in the second half of next year due to the impact of the US-led war against terrorism.

"Just like the US economy, our economy will be able to see the light only in the second half of next year," BoK governor Chon Chol-Hwan said.

He promised to take act quickly if there were any signs of market turbulence in bond markets.

"I want to stress that the central bank will react immediately if and when there are signs of unease in the money market."

The three-year state bond yield closed up at 4.9 percent Wednesday, while the three-year corporate bond yield rose to 6.48 percent.

LG Investment and Securities analyst Park Heuy-Deuk said money would return to the comparatively stable bond market, given the uncertainty over the global economy.

"There is a growing perception that the economy is near the trough of the recession and that a recovery may come earlier than most people fear," Park said.

The Korea Development Institute cut its 2001 gross domestic product growth (GDP) forecast to 2.2 percent year-on-year from 4.0 percent projected in July.

It also cut its GDP growth forecast for the third quarter to 0.9 percent from 3.2 percent and the fourth quarter GDP forecast to 1.6 percent from 5.6 percent.

The state think tank expects GDP to grow 2.4 percent in the first half of 2002 and rise 4.2 percent in the second half, resulting in a full-year growth of 3.3 percent.

"Economic growth is slowing due to weaker exports led by semiconductors. The war between the United States and Afghanistan may put additional negative shocks on the already slowing economy," it said.

The country's current account surplus may fall to $2.8 billion in 2002 from an estimated $8.5 billion this year.

Investment in production facilities is expected to contract as much as 9 percent in the second half of this year, the institute said, calling for the early execution of budget spending to boost demand. *AFP*

Gates toasts Big Apple with new software release

NEW YORK—Last month's terrorist attacks scared droves of tourists from Times Square. Not Bill Gates.

The Microsoft Corp. chair stuck with a New York hotel as Thursday's venue to trumpet the release of the company's biggest product release in six years: the Windows XP operating system.

Gates said a conversation with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani persuaded him to keep his plans.

"He was very clear that we should come to New York and do the event," the software mogul told The Associated Press in an interview this week. "His enthusiasm made it clear that we should go full-speed ahead and that's what we're doing."

For Microsoft, Windows XP lays the foundation for a new Internet-focused direction.

The idea is to get consumers more connected—with better Internet tools and features including built-in wireless networking support.

And that positions Microsoft, as a provider of a myriad of existing and planned Web-based services, well. Because as an operating system provider, it is uniquely positioned to be a gatekeeper.

For users, the $99 upgrade to XP Home is Microsoft's best-yet stab at a user-friendly operating system, with plug-and-play support for a plethora of digital gadgets, an emphasis on whiz-bang multimedia and an underlying code base that is practically crash proof.

"It's got a lot of nice new features. But the most important thing is that it really is a stable operating system. It doesn't crash," said Michael Miller, editor in chief of PC Magazine.

Perhaps most obvious, Microsoft redesigned the look of the software. *AP*

Central Europe resists world recession better than Asian economies

VIENNA—Central Europe is resisting the global economic downturn better than the emerging economies of Asia and Latin America in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, analysts say.

"The negative effects of the terrorist attacks and the war against terrorism have mainly affected the United States, and to a lesser degree western Europe," explained Ivan Fabizhancic, an analyst at Erste Bank in Vienna, which deals with the largest network of banks in central Europe.

"Central Europe's exports (three-quarters of which go to the European Union) are less affected than those of emerging countries which depend on the United States" such as countries in South East Asia and Latin America, he added.

"The impact of worldwide recession on central European countries should be limited and, paradoxically, this difficult period should help countries in the region to attract more international investors in the coming months and years," Fabizhancic said.

"Most of the countries in the region are in a good economic position internally because of investment and a rise in buying power, which allows them to compensate for the downturn in external demand," said Ronald Schneider, an analyst for Austrian bank Raiffeisen Zentralbank (RZB).

Economic analysts have recently reduced their predictions for growth in central Europe in 2001 and 2002, but predictions for these countries are still better than those for western Europe, they said.

According to Bank Austria, Hungary's economy should grow by 4 percent this year and next year, while the Czech Republic's should grow by 3.5 percent this year and 3 percent in 2002.

"Poland is the only problem" because its gross domestic product is expected to level off at between one and 2 percent during the period, according to Stefan Bruckbauer, a spokesperson for Bank Austria's economic analysis service.

Poland, which alone accounts for nearly half of the gross domestic product of central and eastern Europe, owes its problems above all to "its internal economic situation," said Bruckbauer.

Investment and consumption slowed abruptly this year after the Polish central bank maintained effective interest rates at more than 10 percent for several months. But the situation is expected to resolve itself in the country where more than 16 percent of the active population are unemployed.

"Inflation was fought successfully," explained Fabizhancic. Prices only went up by 4.3 percent year on year in September compared with more than 10 percent the year before.

"The new left-wing government seems ready to follow a strict budgetary policy which should encourage the central bank to drop interest rates in order to relaunch the economy," he said.

"Inflation is dropping and is under control in all central European countries and no country risks stopping payments," said Bruckbauer.

In Hungary and the Czech Republic, "internal consumption will stay good and the two countries will continue to import while their exports slow," said Fabizhancic.

"They will see a drop in their current accounts, but nothing serious," he said, adding that Hungary had exceeded its balance of payments in July and August.

"In the long term, the hope of joining the European Union is a further factor that promotes stability," said Fabizhancic. "Central Europe should see an average growth of 4.5 percent in the next 10 years," he added. *AFP*

Samsung SDI unveils world's largest next generation display

SEOUL—South Korea's Samsung SDI Co. Ltd. on Thursday unveiled the world's largest next-generation technology display screen.

The company has developed a 15.1-inch active matrix organic electro luminescence (AMOEL), a new display technology which is expected to be widely used for multimedia devices.

"This is the world's largest AMOEL display," Chung Ho-Kyun, head of a research and development team that developed the display, told AFP.

He said the display provides 1.6 times more pixels—more pixels mean a clearer and more detailed image—than Sony's recently developed 13-inch product and offers more natural color.

"AMOEL display has a wide range of multimedia applications. Market potential is tremendous as next generation digital equipment, including mobile phones, large size TVs, notebook PCs, will use it," he said.

Existing electro luminescence products have been mostly used in small displays for mobile handsets, personal digital assistants and DVD players.

Samsung SDI has dedicated 130 researchers and invested 30 billion won ($24 million) in developing the product since March 2000, it added.

The company expects the world organic electro luminescence market to grow from 800 billion won ($615 million) next year to 12 trillion won by 2005. *AFP*

Singapore's finance minister to retire

SINGAPORE—Singapore's Finance Minister Richard Hu will retire after the country's Nov. 3 general election, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said Thursday.

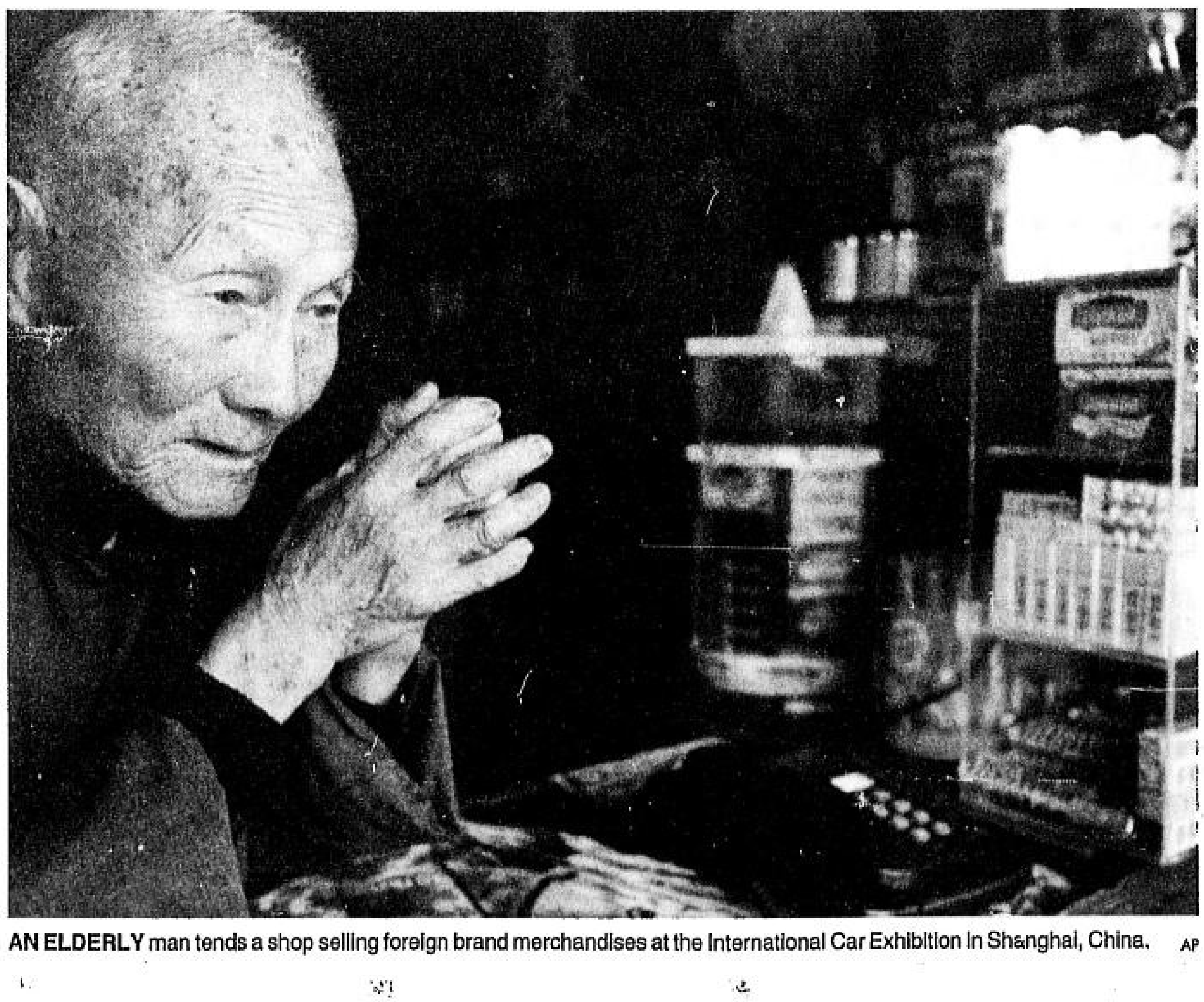
Hu, known for his cautious and conservative approach, has been Singapore's finance minister since 1985.

During Hu's time in office, Singapore grew in prominence as an Asian financial center and became one of the region's wealthiest countries.

Hu is among the more senior figures in Singapore's Cabinet. He will turn 75 on Oct. 30.

Singapore Health Minister Lim Hng Kiang, who is also second minister for finance, is expected to step into Hu's post.

Prime Minister Goh disclosed Hu's retirement in a TV news report on Singapore's Channel NewsAsia, when reporters asked Goh which constituency Hu would contest in the Nov. 3 general election. *AP*



AN ELDERLY man tends a shop selling foreign brand merchandises at the International Car Exhibition in Shanghai, China. AP

Nissan set to buy more than 10% of Renault

TOKYO—Japan's No. 3 automaker Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. is set to buy more than 10 percent of its biggest shareholder Renault SA of France to firm up ties between the pair, a report said Thursday.

Nissan wants to take advantage of Renault's attractive share price, which has fallen by almost 40 percent from a 12-month high, and an announcement on the move may come next week, the Financial Times said citing company sources.

"It's motivational," the economic daily quoted a Nissan director as saying. "It lets Nissan employees know that the futures of the companies are now linked."

Renault would issue new shares to Nissan rather than let it buy them on the open market, it quoted Thierry Moulonguet, Nissan's chief financial officer as saying.

Nissan president and former Renault executive Carlos Ghosn declined to verify the report, but hinted a share swap between the pair would happen soon.

"I cannot confirm that," he said in an interview of CNN television. "It's considered as part of the basic condition of the alliance . . . and I still think that on a mid- and long-term basis it makes sense."

Under the terms of their alliance, Renault has an option to progressively increase its stake in Nissan up to 44.4 percent by 2004 at 400 yen a share. In return, the deal also offers Nissan the opportunity one day to take an equivalent stake in its French partner.

"Getting into the capital offer will not limit our ability to invest and will not challenge our commitments to reduce the debt and to get rid of this debt," the president said referring to Nissan's efforts to reduce a mountain of debt over the past two years.

Ghosn has succeeded in turning around the Japanese firm since taking the helm two years ago, stemming losses by aggressively selling off expendable assets, closing branches and cutting payrolls. *AFP*

Japan gov't to cut economic growth target 'considerably'

TOKYO—The government will cut "considerably" Japan's growth target for the year to March with a new figure due out at the end of the week, State Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy Heizo Takenaka said Thursday.

"I understand full-year growth will fall considerably below the 1.7-percent target," Takenaka told the government's Economic and Fiscal Policy Committee.

"(The revision is due to) the April-June gross domestic product setback of negative 0.8-percent growth (from the previous quarter) and concerns over the impact from the global economic situation," he said.

Tokyo had forecast annual growth of 1.7 percent, but Takenaka warned earlier the figure could slump to levels forecast by private-sector economists, which average at around minus one percent.

The Cabinet Office will release a revised economic forecast on Friday, before starting deliberations on a supplementary budget for the year to March, due to be submitted to parliament on Nov. 9.

But Takenaka said extensive pump-priming by Tokyo to support the nation as it teeters on the brink of its fourth recession in a decade is unnecessary at present.

"If the economy is mired in a deflationary spiral, fiscal policy needs to play a role but in the medium-term there is a limit to using such policy to boost domestic demand," Takenaka said.

Economic support from monetary policy has also run its course, warned Bank of Japan (BOJ) gov. Masaru Hayami at the same committee meeting.

"The BOJ has exhausted the room for further easing; monetary easing alone is not enough to overcome economic difficulties," Hayami said.

"The BOJ will release forecasts for the economy and price levels for this fiscal year and next on Oct. 30. We are closely watching whether weakness in demand is increasing downward pressure on prices.

"If a fall in prices and downdraft in the economy accelerates, we can call the situation a deflationary spiral, but at the moment we do not believe the economy has entered such a spiral," he said. *AFP*

China's IT industry remains strong

BEIJING—China's computer sector saw strong domestic growth in the third quarter of the year, a semi-official report said Thursday, despite the global economic slump and falling PC sales elsewhere in Asia.

Sales volume in the country's computer market reached 68.5 billion yuan ($8.3 billion) for the period, up 18 percent from the previous quarter and 12 percent on the same three months of 2001, said the report, cited by the state China Daily newspaper.

Of this, computer hardware sales were 47.1 billion yuan, up 18 percent from the previous quarter, said the survey by CCID Consulting Co. Ltd., an IT market research firm described as "close" to the Ministry of Information Industry.

Software sales and other services accounted for $7.9 billion and 11 billion yuan, respectively, a rise of 20 percent and 18 percent, the report added.

"The growth just shows China's market is a highlight in the world in such a bad time," CCID consulting president Yang Tianxing was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

A separate research study released earlier this week said sales of personal computers (PCs) in the Asia-Pacific region outside Japan had fallen one percent in the third quarter.

International Data Corp. (IDC) said the decline from the same period in 2000 "reflected slower market conditions further exacerbated by the tragic events of Sept. 11." *AFP*

Nextel revenues and subscribers rise

CHICAGO—Nextel Communications Inc., the nation's fifth-largest wireless telephone company, reported a third-quarter loss on Wednesday, but revenues rose 30 percent as subscriber growth met expectations.

"During a quarter marked by a national tragedy, we turned in a solid performance, in line with our plans and full-year guidance," Tim Donahue, Nextel's president and chief executive, said in a news release. "We intend to build on this momentum in the fourth quarter and into 2002."

Net loss for the quarter narrowed to $150 million, or 27 cents a share, from $184 million, or 31 cents a year ago. But, revenues rose to $1.99 billion from $1.53 billion. Domestic revenues rose 26 percent to $1.81 billion for the quarter, while international revenues more than doubled to $186 million.

Shares of Nextel closed up $1.29, or 17.4 percent, at $8.69 on Nasdaq. The stock has underperformed the Nasdaq telecommunications index by about 32 percent over the past year.

Nextel told analysts in a conference call that it still expects to add 1.9 million to 2 million net subscribers in 2001 with revenues in excess of $7 billion and operating cash flow of $1.9 billion.

It added 481,000 new domestic subscribers in the third quarter compared with its expectations of about 480,000.

Customers at the end of the quarter totaled 9.6 million including international customers and subscribers from its affiliate Nextel Partners Inc.

The company said it would have added more than 500,000 subscribers if its business had not been temporarily disrupted by the attacks of Sept. 11.

Analysts were particularly pleased with Nextel's customer turnover rate, which fell to 2.1 percent from 2.3 percent in the second quarter. The industry average is around 2.5 percent.

Jeffrey Hines, wireless analyst with Deutsche Banc Alex Brown, attributed the decline in turnover to new billing systems and additional customer care facilities.

"It seems to be paying some dividends for them," he said.

Paul Saleh, chief financial officer of Nextel, told Reuters that the lower customer turnover rate was one of the key reasons why it has been able to report solid financial results in a tough economic environment.

Analysts and investors had been concerned that Nextel, which primarily targets business customers, would be affected by the slowdown in the economy and corporate downsizing.

Nextel's decision to target customers who would be attracted to its two-way radio feature has also helped the company's business, Tim O'Neil, wireless analyst with SoundView Technology, said.

The two-way radio allows customers to communicate quickly with their co-workers.

"They seem to be doing very well within their own niche market segments, and we would expect them to continue to do well," O'Neil said.

Operating cash flow, a key measure for wireless companies, was $497 million, excluding a $147-million impairment charge, compared with $359 million a year ago. *Reuters*

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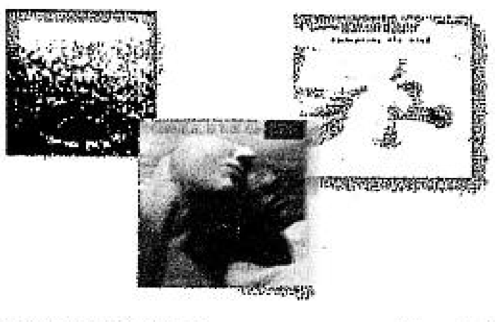

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The AFP Medical Center invites bidders to Pre-qualify and to bid for the following:

a. Janitorial Services
b. Laundry Services

Pre-bid conference will be held on 9:00 a.m. 06 November 2001 at the AFPMC Conference Room, AFP Medical Center, V. Luna Road, Quezon City. Failure to attend the Pre-bid conference on the specified time and date automatically disqualifies any bidder to participate in the bidding.

The AFP Medical Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality, and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO D. BERNARDO**
Colonel MC (GSC)
Chairman, BNAC

(PDI – Oct. 26, 29 & 30, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City, 1100 Philippines • Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for:

I. One (1) year contract (Jan.-Dec. 2002) for the following:
  a. Laundry Services (linens)
  b. Supply of Medical Oxygen (tanks only)
  c. Aircon Maintenance

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding. List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. SEC registration
3. Bus. License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before Nov. 12, 2001 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- Oct. 26, 27, 28, Nov. 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the late HECTOR S. MORENO Sr. has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 186 Page No. 038 Book I Series 2001 of Not. Pub. Grace Cassandra Aletheia L. Alfafara of Makati
(PDI-Oct. 12,19 & 26,2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505, it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.
Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ILOILO
Office of the Governor
Iloilo City

October 18, 2001

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Province of Iloilo hereby invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as **Triple A, LARGE B** for Buildings to apply for qualification/eligibility, and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the construction of additional works; supply and commissioning of various equipment for the completion of the New Iloilo Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City.

Qualification/Accreditation statements are available for issuance to interested Contractors at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Iloilo National High School, La Paz, Iloilo City starting **November 5, 2001** until **November 6, 2001**, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent addressed to and received by the Office of Governor Niel D. Tupas. Last day for submission of qualification/accreditation documents is **November 15, 2001**.

Plans and bidding documents are available at the Provincial Engineer's Office Multi-Purpose Covered Gym, Magsaysay Village, La Paz, Iloilo City for issuance to pre-qualified Contractors on **December 7, 2001** only upon payment of the amount of **Twenty-five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00)** which is non-refundable.

The BAC shall hold pre-bid conferences on **December 21, 2001**; and **January 8, 2002**, at 2:00 p.m. at the SP Session Hall of the Old Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City.

Sealed bids shall be received by the BAC on **January 25, 2002** from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the SP Session Hall of the Old Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City, which will be publicly opened at 2:15 p.m. of the same date.

The Provincial Government of Iloilo reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality in such bids, and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Iloilo Provincial Government.

(Sgd.) **NIEL D. TUPAS**
Governor

(PDI – Oct. 21, 26 & 31, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF SAN NARCISO (Quezon), INC. (RBSNI)

1. Pursuant to the commitment of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) to promptly service claims for insured deposits, initial payoff operations will be conducted in the closed Rural Bank of San Narciso (Quezon), Inc. for the settlement of insured deposits with balances of P10,000.00 and below. Depositors whose deposit balances are within the said amount are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from October 26 to November 22, 2001, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   Settlement of insured deposits above P10,000.00 will be made and announced as soon as the examination of deposits is completed by PDIC.
2. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
3. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of San Narciso (Quezon) Inc. is on March 26, 2003. After March 26, 2003, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI - Oct. 25 & 26, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Presidential offender

Q. Which U.S. president had a multiple arrest record?

A. Ulysses S. Grant (1869-1877). In 1866, while commander of the Union Army of the Potomac, he was arrested for speeding on horseback on two separate occasions and fined five dollars after being hauled down to the local police precinct. Early in his term as president, he was again stopped for speeding his buggy in Washington D.C. This time Grant was neither arrested nor fined, but his horse and buggy were impounded.

For the Record. The real King Macbeth of Scotland was very different from the tragic hero of Shakespeare's play. Far from being an ambitious usurper, as Shakespeare describes him, Macbeth had a claim to the Scottish throne which was at least as good as that of his rival, Duncan. Furthermore, Duncan was killed in open battle in 1040 and not murdered by Macbeth as Shakespeare's play claims. In fact, Duncan was a young, ineffectual king -- not Shakespeare's venerable, gracious sovereign. And after Macbeth seized the throne by force, he went on to reign for 17 prosperous years, from 1040 to 1057, when he was killed by Duncan's son, Malcolm III.

Classified Odd. A hen-pecked London innkeeper who died at the end of the 19th century left his property to his wife -- on condition that every year, on the anniversary of his death, she walked barefoot to the local market, held up a lighted candle and read out a full confession of her nagging ways. The theme of the confession was that if her tongue had been shorter, her husband would have lived longer. If she failed to keep the appointment, she was to receive no more than £20 a year -- just enough to live on.

WORD WATCH

Virago (vi ray' goh, vi ra' goh): a loud, quarrelsome, bad-tempered woman.

PDI -- October 26, 2001

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The National Historical Institute-Bids and Awards Committee invites contractors prequalified with the Department of Public Works and Highways to bid for the proposed repair/rehabilitation of various structures maintained by the National Historical Institute as follows:

1. Provision of previewing/holding area, Museum of Philippine Political History, NHI, Manila
   P 4,825,000.00
2. Restoration of Paoay Church
   Paoay, Ilocos Norte
   P 1,352,039.50

Interested parties are advised to submit Letter of Intent and photocopy (with original) of their Contractors Registration Certificate (CRC) issued by the Department of Public Works and Highways together with a Credit Line equivalent of ten percent (10%) of the Project Cost issued by a reputable bank on **October 29 - November 7, 2001** at the Records Section, National Historical Institute, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila. Bid documents shall be issued on **November 9, 2001** upon payment of non-refundable fee.

Duly accomplished bid documents shall be made in two (2) sealed envelopes as required for in PD 1594. Submission of documents and opening of bids shall be on **November 26, 2001** at 9:00 a.m. at the NHI Board Room.

Prequalified contractors shall submit their respective securities in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the total project cost at the date and time of the opening.

The NHI reserves the right not to open bids at all and restart the bid process, to reject any and/or all prequalification and/or bids, waive any defects therein, and accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **AUGUSTO V. DE VIANA**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Oct. 26 & Nov. 3, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax No. 421-2327; 911-6001 loc. 6592
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **UPGRADE OF THE COMBAT VEHICLE RECONNAISSANCE (TRACKED) [CVR (T)] SCORPION**, with an approved budget of **Sixty Seven Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 67,200,000.00) under the AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from suppliers who are the manufacturers themselves of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **October 26, 2001** until **November 13, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, Third Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Seven Thousand Pesos (Php 7,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder authorizing its representatives to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 13, 2001** at **2:00 PM** (local time) at Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, First Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Prospective bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the Scorpion Tanks and facilities upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of the First Stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of Eligibility/Bid Documents (First Stage) is on **December 4, 2001** at **9:00 AM** (local time) after which the Opening of Bids shall immediately follow. Venue is at Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, First Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

LTGEN GREGORIO M CAMILING JR AFP
The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Oct. 25 & 26, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PATUBIG
(NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION)
Lungsod ng Quezon

OFFICE ADDRESS NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER
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QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

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INVITATION TO BID
Bid No. TGISRP-0023-01
Supply and Delivery of Various Industrial Engines

The Philippine Government has obtained a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the prosecution of the Tarlac Groundwater Irrigation System Project. Part of the Loan shall be used to procure eligible expenditures as follows:

Qty	Unit	Description
9	Sets	Vertical Turbine Pump 2 Stage or multi-stages 250 MM (10" dia.) Water Lubricated, Diesel Engine Driven using Right Angle Gear Drive
9	Sets	Industrial Diesel Engine
9	Sets	Right Angle Gear Drive (RAGD)

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) as the Implementing Agency of the Project, invites eligible bidders to participate in the tender. Interested bidders may obtain bid documents from **05 to 16 November 2001** at the Procurement Division, Ground Floor, NIA Building, Diliman, Quezon City. Tel. Nos. 921-3906 and 922-4768 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

A Pre-bid Conference shall be held on **27 November 2001**, 2:00 PM at the Conference Room of the Assistant Administrator for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, NIA Building, Quezon City.

Bids must be delivered and shall be publicly opened on **11 December 2001**, 2:00 PM at the same venue.

All bids must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to at least 2% of the total bid price.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any or all informalities or to award such bids to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ISIDRO R. DIGAL**
Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 24 & 26, 2001)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a prequalification of prospective bidders for the following item:

Qty.	Unit	Item(s) and Specification(s)
-2-	Units	Grinder pump, rugged, CI submersible type, 160 GPM, 150 ft. pressure head, stainless steel impeller and shaft, consisting of first stage cutter and ring and shearing cutter both made of stainless steel. Seals must be multi-spring or wave spring with silicon carbide (Stationary and rotary faces) on stainless steel trims. Motor shall be 460VAC, 3 dia. 60 Hz oil filled, 3450RPM with internal seal leak probe and winding heat sensor, provided with motor controller and liquid level controller, US made, UL listed.

For prequalification purposes, interested bidders shall submit to the Manager II, Procurement Division II, Administrative Services Department, not later than **November 9, 2001** photocopies of the following documents (original copies of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes):

1) Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2) Year 2000 duly Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet and Income Statement);
3) Business Licenses/Permit;
4) Year 2000 Income Tax Return;
5) Company History/Profile;
6) If the bidder is not the manufacturer, a certification from the manufacturer that the bidder is the local representative; and
7) Brochure(s) of the item to be offered for evaluation /approval.

Only those who comply with the above requirements and are prequalified by the Bank will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised to prequalified bidders.

The two-envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS**
Officer-In-Charge

(PDI – Oct. 26, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
www.jobmarketonline.com
ONLINE

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENERATION COMPANY I
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 527-4880-82
GENCO I-2001-001 (PBD)

GENCO-1

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED SCRAP STEEL MATERIALS LOCATED AT MALAYA THERMAL PLANT, Pililla, Rizal "AS IS WHERE IS"

Date of Bidding: **November 13, 2001** Time of Bidding: **2:00 PM**

	Description of Item	Estimated Quantity	Minimum Bid Price
1.	Scrap Steel	224,255 kgs. (more or less)	P 2.85/kilo
2.	Scrap Steam Coil Air Heater (with Aluminum Fins)	2,350 kgs. (more or less)	P 8,734.00/unit

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 PM on November 13, 2001. Sealed bids will be publicly opened on the scheduled date at First Floor, GENCO I Bidding Room, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Proposal Bond Deposit in the form of cash or Manager's Check equivalent to ten (10%) percent of total estimated bid.**
2. **Latest Income Tax Return of the bidder or financial statement of the company.**
3. **Request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from the Warehouse Section-Administration Division at the above address and inquiries can be made at the stated telephone number. Likewise, representatives must bring with them written authorization from the business establishment of which they are representing. Deadline for issuance of bid forms is on November 12, 2001. The National Power Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as maybe advantageous to its interest.**

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Department Manager
Professional Services-GENCO I

(PDI – Oct. 26 & 27, 2001)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 928-8505 loc. 253 & 252

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

A. The Bureau of Agricultural Research invites all interested Bidders to pre-qualify for the bidding of supply and installation of modular workstations with panels, lateral files, modular conference tables, steel storage lockers and steel manual type compactor/trail.

B. The following pre-qualification requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Procurement and Bidding Awards Committee of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR-PBAC) at 3rd Floor, ATI Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:

   1. Company Profile.
   2. SEC Registration (Corporation); DTI Accreditation (Sole Proprietorship).
   3. License to Operate (Mayor's Permit).
   4. ITR for the last two years (stamped by BIR).
   5. Audited Financial Statement for the last two years.
   6. VAT/E-VAT/NON-VAT Registration.
   7. Number of Employees.
   8. List of clients within the year with their respective telephone numbers and addresses.
   9. The company must indicate in its application the category/classification/grouping they would like to participate in (Letter of Intent).
   10. Certification that the company is not affiliated with other companies with similar nature of business.
   11. Listing of product offered.
   12. Certification of dealership from authorized distributor.

   NOTE:
   - ONLY PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE INVITATION TO BID DOCUMENTS AND BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.
   - ONLY AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTORS/RESELLERS/DEALERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING
   - COST OF DOCUMENTS: P2,500.00 (NON-REFUNDABLE)
   - FUNDING SOURCE ALLOCATION: 7M

C. Deadline for submission: **November 5, 2001.**

D. Bidding schedule shall be announced to all pre-qualified bidders.

E. The Bureau of Agricultural Research reserves the right to review the qualifications of a selected bidder, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the Bureau.

F. For further particulars, please inquire at Telephone Nos.: 928-8505, 928-8624 local 153 or 141 c/o Ms. Corazon L. Barretto or Arch. Edgardo Abesamis.

(Sgd.) **ELISEO R. PONCE**
Director

(PDI – Oct. 24, 25 & 26, 2001)

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FELICIA ROXAS TANCO

(October 17, 1913 - October 24, 2001)

Lies in state at the Capilla de San Francisco of the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park where Masses are celebrated every 7:30 PM.

Funeral Mass will be held at the Capilla de San Francisco on Sunday, October 28th at 10:00 AM. The remains will be cremated at the Manila Memorial Park at 12 noon and then interred at the Loyola Memorial Cemetery in Sucat at 4:30 PM.

She was the wife of **Arturo V. Tanco** (†). She was the mother of **Bong** (†), **Butch**, **Pat**, **Peachy** and **Chingling**, their spouses **Patricia**, **Terry** and **JM**. She was the grandmother of **Christopher** and wife **Vicky**, **Lisa**, **Kathy** and husband **Basil**. She was the great grandmother of **Jonathan**, **Isabel**, **Miko**, **Alex** and **Mark**, **Paco** and wife **Veronica**, **Santi** and **Maruja**. She was the sister of **Lourdes Roxas Kalaw**, **Conchita Roxas de los Santos**, **Carmelita Roxas Natividad** and her husband **Boy Natividad**, her sister-in-law **Chona Tañada Silos**, her brother **Sixto K. Roxas**.

They and all their children, her many nieces and nephews, and their spouses, request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

MANUEL DELGADO BARRO

Retired LTO Regional Director, Region XI

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 24, 2001 at the age of 72.

His loving wife **JESUSA YADAO**; children and in-laws **Rosanne** and **Takanori Okazaki**, **Louella** and **Renato Bendigo**, **Marlon**, **Maripet** and **Jesus Cagas**, **Tony** and **Ruby Gadia**, **Eric** and **Marge Macasaet**, **Concepcion** and **Franco Badon**; grandchildren **Carla**, **Mike**, **Ralp**, **Martin**, **Bonchee**, **Kimberly**, **Kyna**, **Kara**, **Keanu**, **Aldo**, **Paqo**, **Cheska** and **Kristine**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Charity Chapel, St. John Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, San Lorenzo Village, Makati. Cremation will be at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 28, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque following the 1:00 p.m. Funeral Mass at the Charity Chapel in Don Bosco, Makati.

> ***"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."***
>
> 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

FLORENDO C. LUCAS

Beloved High School Principal

Peacefully joined our Creator on October 24, 2001 at the age of 75.

His wife **Mindanao M. Lucas**; children **Jose "Ping"** (†) and **Cynthia**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at Lot 25, Block 5 E. Aguinaldo Street, Vista Valley Executive Village, Sto. Niño, Marikina City.

Interment is tentatively scheduled on Saturday afternoon.

Card of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

FRANCISCA FERMIN CRUZ

widow of **Col. Anatolio B. Cruz, MC**

who passed away on October 18, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all who sent messages of condolence, kept vigil, offered Masses, sent flowers, attended the Masses and prayers, celebrated the final Eucharist with us on her last day and showed their kindness in countless ways, or simply spent precious time with us in our sorrow.

God bless you all.

ROLANDO P. ABRIGO

Lot 40 Bliss, Patimbao, Sta. Cruz, Laguna

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 24, 2001 at the age of 62.

His bereaved wife **Nenita**; children **Ma. Russell**, **Ma. Rowena**, **Benice** and son-in-law **Allan Rodriguez**; grandchildren **Mathew Alphonse** and **Nicole Allanu**; bro. **Bebeng** and sis. **Merle**, **Joseph**; mother-in-law **Panching**; friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at Veronica Memorial Chapels.

Cremation will be held at Manila Memorial Crematory on October 28, 2001, 9:00 AM.

Col. CONRADO L. BANAL, JR. (Ret.)

October 22, 1931 - October 24, 2001

His bereaved wife **Jovencia Rojas**; children **Chelo**, **Conrad**, **May**, **Joel**, **Kaye**, **Koy**, **Gina**, **Dang** and **Honey**; children-in-law **Bill Formoso**, **Joey Garcia**, **Jenny Mapua**, **Frank Golla**, **Minel Bravo**, **Bobby Go** and **Cris Huertas**; grandchildren **Beia**, **Gabriel**, **Dominic**, **Ariana**, **Carlo**, **Jobim**, **Paolo**, **Juan**, **Miguel**, **Gab**, **Rafael**, **Mika**, **Sarah**, **Joseph**, **Frank**, **Hannah**, **Jonathan**, **David**, **Rebekkah**, **Isaiah**, **Kevin**, **Louise**, **Maxine** and **Ruthie**; mother **Josefa**; brother **Jorge**; and sister **Menchie Padilla** request the reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at Chapel 1, Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 28, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the memorial park.

Please omit flowers.

Our Dearly Beloved

ALFREDO HEIDT PEDROSA

Born July 12, 1923

Peacefully joined the Lord on October 22, 2001 at the age of 78.

He is survived by his wife **Emilia**; children and spouses **Freddie & Rhodora**, **Cynthia & Henry**, **Linda & Patrick**, **Amando & Clarita**, **Alex & Noemi**; grandchildren and spouses **Jayvee**, **Khristine**, **Christian & Salve**, **Jude**, **Kevin**, **Allen**, **Adrian**, **John**, **Joseph**, **Nathan** and **Eunice**; great grandchild **Tyrell**; brothers and sisters **Samuel**, **Ramon**, **Flor Lilia & Virginia**.

His remains lie in state at the Church of the Risen Lord, University of the Philippines Campus, Diliman, Quezon City.

Cremation plans are being finalized.

May his soul rest in peace.

VICENTE O. TORRE

His bereaved wife **LIGAYA**; children **MARIVIC**, **MARY ANNE**, **MARK** and **MA. LOURDES**; mother **VICENTA**; brothers, sisters and in-laws request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo St. corner Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 28, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Arlington East, The Garden Chapels.

Message of Thanks

The family of the late

FELIZA V. OBILLO

who passed away on October 14, 2001

wish to thank all those who offered Masses and prayers, flowers and notes of sympathy, were present at the wake and funeral rites, and eased their sadness in many other ways. God bless you all.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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100 patients reveal survival secrets in new cancer book

ONE hundred cancer survivors worldwide reveal their bouts against the dreaded disease in the latest revised edition of Chinese cancer expert Wang Zhen Guo's latest book ''The Cancer Terminator – 100 Live Stories of 100 Cancer Sufferers".

Among the cancer patients who gave their testimonials in the book are Edith Shih from San Francisco, California; Chen Yueyun from Malaysia; Fred Walltic from the United States; Kawada Hiroshima from Japan; Ma Meiyu from Thailand; Zhou Yuzhen from Taiwan; Ding Suk Ying from Hong Kong; Wan Rsbiatul from Malacca; Lady Shimitsu from Japan; and Yeung Ching Wan from Hong Kong.

According to survivor Edith Shih, cancer patients should be "cautious in choosing the kind of treatment for themselves."

She added that it is important to defeat cancer with a balanced diet, avoiding certain foods which may contribute to cancer.

Among those cited as preventive foods against cancer are fruits like watermelon, cushaw, balsam pear, apple, pear, lemon, oranges, strawberry, bananas, and grapes; edible mushrooms, cereals like soybeans, mongo beans, cornmeal; sea animals like sea cucumber, qinghua fish, oyster, clam, crucian; different kinds of vegetables and seaweeds; and others like honey, sunflower seed, buttermilk, vinegar, chrysanthemum and tea.

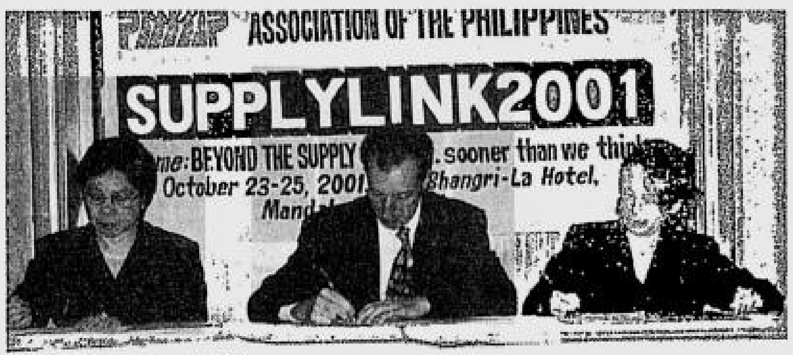
The patients' testimonials narrate their survival stories against different kinds of cancer, including those of the uterus, breasts, lungs, liver, thyroid gland, stomach, intestines, prostate glands, malignant lymph tumor, bones, skin, prostate, nose and the esophagus.

For its part, Manila-based Green and Gold International Exports, publisher of the latest edition of "The Cancer Terminator", said that copies of the book are now available at their office at Room 307, Solmac Building, 84 Dapitan Street corner Banawe Street, Quezon City.

Interested parties may call Green and Gold International Exports at 415-8714, 781-0069 and 781-9370.

COCA-COLA LINKS UP WITH GMA FOUNDATION

Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) joins GMA Foundation's (GMAF) project 'Give A Gift: Alay Sa Batang Pinoy 2002' which aims to promote the child's right to play, leisure and learn. Under the partnership, GMAF shall be collecting used soft drink cans and PET bottles while Now Trading Concepts, a partner of CCBPI in "Coca-Cola Mission: P.E.T." (Pinoy Environment Team) will buy the collected cans and plastic bottles. Shown during the signing are (from left) CCBPI environmental affairs specialist Hubert Adoreno, GMAF's Trish Pagsolingan, GMAF special projects manager Mary Ann Santiago, CCBPI vice president and corporate affairs director Mila Llorin and Now Trading Concepts vice president Chingbee Lim.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MAGNUS SPONSORS SUPPLYLINK 2001

Magnus Management Consultants recently signed a contract with the Purchasing and Materials Management Association of the Philippines (PMMAP) to sponsor SupplyLink 2001, an annual conference and trade exhibit that brought together purchasing and materials management practitioners. The SupplyLink 2001 was held this week at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Shown are PMMAP president Imelda S. Carillo, CPM, Magnus managing consultant Robert Van Gein, and Magnus senior manager Marcy Soriano during the contract signing at the New World Hotel.

the STROKE SOCIETY PHILIPPIN
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1972

STUDY REPORTS 28% REDUCTION OF STROKES

A landmark study of the European Society of Hypertension reported a 28-reduction in the rate of secondary strokes among patients, and even higher rate of 37 percent among Asian patients. The five-year study involved more than 6,000 patients from the United States, Europe and Asia. Dr. Joven Cuanang, (middle) president, Stroke Society of the Philippines (SSP) led the presentation of the highlights and results of the Progress Study (acronym for Perindopril Protection Against Recurrent Stroke Study) which showed the benefits of blood pressure lowering treatment in stroke patients with hypertension, and even in patients without high blood pressure, thus reducing the risk of secondary strokes. Dr. Abdias Aquino (right) chair, Stroke Council, Philippine Neurological Association (PNA), explained the study's far reaching benefits for Filipino stroke patients as strokes remain one of the leading causes of disability and death in the Philippines. In the light of the findings, Dr. Alejandro Baroque II, president, PNA called for the updating and review of medical guidelines on the treatment of strokes and called on regulatory authorities like BFAD to consider allowing the use of blood pressure lowering drugs even in non-hypertensive patients.

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K-CPI PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Kimberly-Clark Inc. (K-CPI) senior product manager Aileen Joaquin and Philippine Obstetrics Gynecological Society (POGS) vice president Dr. Greg Pastor Fide (seated, second and third from right, respectively) sign the partnership agreement between K-CPI and POGS for the medical organization's annual convention and 55th anniversary celebration. Sponsored by Newtex and Kotex femcare products, the event will be held from Nov. 13 to 16 at the Philippine International Convention Center. Witnessing the event are (seated from left) POGS ways and means committee member Dr. Susan Nagtulon, ways and means committee chair Dr. Gloria Habalu, (standing from left) K-CPI product manager Beverly Fugaban, POGS secretary Imelda Malubog and K-CPI product manager Iris Yu. Newtex pads and pantiliners, Kotex White pads and the new Kotex Fresh Breathable Pantiliners are quality products of Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI).

HR info now available online

THE HUMAN resource department of Nestlé Philippines recently launched the HR Intranet Site. Employees of the company need not go physically to the HR office to get information on pay and benefits, training career, opportunities, jobs available, employee activities and travel requirements and procedures. By simply pressing a few keys, HR information is now available to employees.

In addition, the site also describes the functions of corporate HR and introduces each of its major players. It also carries information of the company's global initiatives and takes its visitors on an online tour of the Nestlé' center in Makati.

The development of the HR Intranet Site was spearheaded by Nestlé assistant vice president Coritte Sun, in coordination with webmaster Reggie Velasco. Since its launch in July, the site has logged an average of 1,600 hits everyday.

"The next step is to have electronic transactions via the HR site, such as online leave tracking and inputting one's training requirements online, in order to maximize the use of the Intranet," Sun said.

BITS & Clips

'Big Night in October'

TODAY, the Makati (Sports) Club will hold a special treat for its bar patrons. "A Big Night in October" will feature a special Bar Night and an Oktoberfest celebration in one big event. Members, dependents and guests will enjoy authentic German dishes that will be served together with beer. Sponsors for this event include San Miguel Corp. and Metro Wine Inc. For more information, call Joyce at the PR office at 817-8731 to 39 (loc. 40).

PMA Davao sponsors confab

THE PMA Davao Chapter is holding its 10th Regional Mindanao Conference today, Oct. 26 at the Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City. With the theme "Mindanao in Focus", the Chapter has invited engineer Merly Cruz, regional director of the Department of Trade and Industry Region 11, as its keynote speaker. The conference aims to motivate the Mindanao business community to reinforce its marketing power and achieve bigger growth and progress. For more information, call 296-1488 and 234-7143, look for Grace, Maribel or Jojo. E-mail tonab9@mozcom.com.

Career shift at Mandarin Oriental

"MANAGING Career Shift" scheduled on Oct. 26 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati is a clarion call on all employees, retirees, OFWs or OFIs and their families to take this rare opportunity to explore the best alternative on hand in their career. Organized by Better People Inc., Managing Career Shift is aimed at coaching retirees, those who will be inevitably affected by a company's "rightsizing", overseas Filipino investors and others who will venture into a different trade. For more details, call Better People Inc. at 845-0631 to 32 or e-mail results@philonline.com or barramedan@hotmail.com.

Trick or treat at SM

THE SAN MIGUEL Food Group Culinary Center will show you how to make your child's Halloween fun and special with yummy "Trick or Treat Recipes" today, Oct. 26, at 2 p.m. at the Entertainment Area of the SM Southmall, Alabang-Zapote Road in Las Piñas. Enjoy learning recipes from Monterey, CampoCarne, Magnolia Chicken, Purefoods, Magnolia Butter and Magnolia Cheezee. The event is co-sponsored by Tefal, La Germania, Glad Wraps and Bags and Petron Gasul. For more information, call 671-9876 to 91 locals 402-405.

Lesson plan seminar

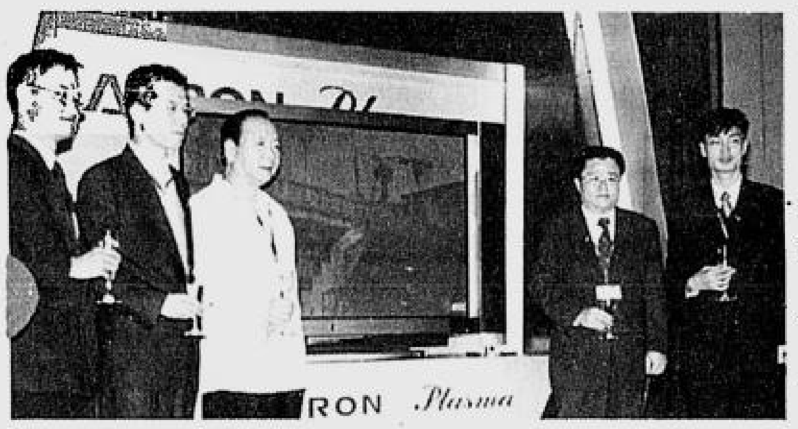
JOIN the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles, Philippines' (CLTS) two-day seminar-workshop on "Making Lesson Exemplars Using Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences" on Oct. 26-27 at the YMCA International Hostel in Manila. Main seminar facilitator will be professor Henry S. Tenedero, president of CLTS, an affiliate of the International Learning Styles Network based at St. John's University in New York. Call 374-4967 (Vir Macaspac) or 936-6790 (Ruben Gatchalian).

PERAA 29th year in Cebu

THE PRIVATE Education Retirement Annuity Association (PERAA) will celebrate its 29th founding anniversary with an administrators' conference, annual meeting and awarding ceremonies today, Oct. 26 at the Cebu Plaza Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City. The theme for the conference is "Convergence in 2001: Benefits that Serve, Services that Count."

17 VOLUMES FOR FILIPINAS HERITAGE

Filipinas Heritage Library, a division of the Ayala Foundation Inc., recently received 17 volumes of Filipiniana books donated by Dr. Reynaldo G. Alejandro (second from left), president of Forbes Holdings Corp. The book donation was formalized during the signing of the deed of donation attended by representatives from both organizations. The book donation added to the library's collection of Filipiniana reference materials consisting of books, manuscripts, periodicals, photographs, slides and transparencies on Philippine history and culture. Shown is Ayala Foundation co-vice chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala accepting the donation with Filipinas Heritage Library director Maritoni C. Ortigas (left) and Ayala Foundation executive director Aurora Tolentino (right).



FLATRON PLASMA NOW IN RP

LG Collins Electronics Manila scored another first with the Philippine premiere of LG Flatron Plasma, which was held recently at the grand ballroom of Dusit Hotel. Billed as the world's largest and thinnest, Flatron Plasma is the latest innovation of LG in the plasma display panel (PDP) category and is now available locally. The unveiling ceremonies, which was witnessed by top dealers from all over the country, was led by LG Collins president Henry Jang (second from right) together with (from left) John Kwon, vice president for home appliances; Jeff Hong, vice president for digital display products, LG Electronics; Eusebio Chua, comptroller; and Sunny Eum, vice president for consumer electronics.

JAPS AT FORT BONI STOPOVER

Fort Bonifacio recently launched its Bonifacio Stopover E-Square IT Park's retail hub with a simultaneous ribbon cutting and opening of restaurants and stores. Shown after the ribbon cutting ceremony of Japs Restaurant are, from left: Charlie Rufino, senior VP of Fort Bonifacio Estate Services Corp. (FBESC); Roxanne Castillo and Cynthia Anne Castillo, Japs Restaurant owners; Kaye Tinga, wife of Taguig Mayor Sigfrido R. Tinga; Elizabeth Rabuy, manager, FBESC; and Vic Tinsay, senior VP of FBESC.

UE PAYS TRIBUTE

For bailing out the University of the East (UE) and helping it become one of the country's premier educational institutions, Dr. Lucio C. Tan (front row, center) receives a special tribute from UE. Joining him on this special occasion is Tan's spouse Carmen and their children, as well as his brothers Harry (second row, extreme left) and Mariano (second row, fourth from right), sisters Shirley Chua and Tan Hui Bin, brother-in-law Domingo Chua and sister-in-law Wang Xinghong.

RP banks weakened by risks–S&P

THE PHILIPPINE banking system faces increased weakness due to greater economic and industry risks in a volatile global environment, US ratings firm Standard and Poor's warned yesterday.

"The Philippine banking system remains weak by global standards, reflecting heightened economic and industry risk, leaving the system increasingly vulnerable to external shocks," Standard and Poor's said in a statement, citing poor asset quality that was eroding the profitability of banks.

The heightened risks have left the system "increasingly vulnerable to external shocks," it said.

Weakened asset quality was also restricting the banks' ability to raise capital, hurting the credit profile of the financial system, said Jason Hill, the associate director of Standard and Poor's financial services rating unit.

The rating agency also cited the Philippine banks' increasing use of securities holdings instead of growth in loans.

These large holdings of government securities left the banking system exposed to market risks and the credit standing of the Philippine government, the agency added.

Hill also warned that a proposed move by the government to set up an asset management agency to dispose of banks' non-performing assets was "not a quick fix solution," adding such agencies often had difficulty disposing of bad loans.

"While Standard and Poor's positively views the removal of non-performing assets from bank balance sheets, asset-management companies are not a quick fix solution for the system's endemic problems," Hill added.

"Regional asset-management companies traditionally have found the disposal of assets a challenging process. Given depressed local demand for the likely offered asset classes, it appears the same issues will constrain disposal in the Philippines," he said.

"The creation of asset-management companies also does not address the fundamental issues of the need for more robust risk-management practices within the domestic banking system, and the much-needed recovery in the domestic economy," according to Hill.

"Weakening profitability, asset quality, interest margins and the continued dearth of creditworthy borrowers appear likely to negatively impact individual banks' operational performance for the foreseeable future," Standard and Poor's said.

The banking system faces "significant challenges during the later part of 2001 and during 2002," the agency added.

Hill warned that while the government might play a role in addressing the banking problem, the banks themselves would have to improve their credit and risk-management practices.

Standard and Poor's recently downgraded its public information ratings on Allied Banking Corp. and Philippine National Bank to triple-"Cpi," reflecting their increasingly weak operating profile.

The rectification of PNB remains a key component toward improving the industry risk profile of the Philippine banking sector, it said.

The continued uncertainty over PNB's ownership has stifled its ability to raise much-needed capital to support its weakening credit profile. *AFP*

PNB sees big returns as soon as rehab starts

By Clarissa S. Batino

EXCITED with the prospects of finally starting its rehabilitation, the Philippine National Bank is looking to get out of the red next year and start posting net earnings a year after.

PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr. confirmed yesterday that PNB majority owner Lucio Tan agreed, in principle, to give the Macapagal administration greater control over the bank.

Tan agreed to a proposal to convert some P25 billion worth of loans extended by the government to PNB into equity at P40 a share.

If plans do not miscarry, this arrangement will give the state and Tan a 45-percent stake each in the bank. The government currently owns 16 percent of PNB while Tan controls 67 percent.

"Mr. Tan has agreed to a P40-per-share price as part of a full rehabilitation package for PNB that includes the restructuring of loans and offsetting of the more than P10 billion in advances that the bank has made for the government," Miranda said.

Reacting to Tan's decision to yield to a debt-for-share swap with the government, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said it was "a positive sign towards finally reaching an agreement,"

"We hope to be able to do this within the year if not earlier," he said.

Camacho expressed optimism that the government and Tan would be able to jointly sell their stake in PNB in two to three years after that start of the bank's rehabilitation program.

Miranda said PNB's financial health should start improving with its rehabilitation.

"Once we start the rehabilitation, our balance sheet will improve and the bank's profitability will be restored," he said.

As of the second quarter, the bank posted a net loss of P3.92 billion. Last year, its losses hit P5.97 billion from P13.85 billion in 1999.

Plans to rehabilitate PNB have been in the works for two years. In many instances, these efforts were waylaid by unexpected events.

In October last year, PNB ran to the government to secure a P25-billion emergency loan following heavy withdrawals triggered by political uncertainties then.

Chinatrust says it plans to buy new branches

By Elena R. Torrijos

CHINATRUST Philippines Commercial Bank Corp., a unit of Taiwan's Chinatrust Commercial Bank, is planning to acquire new branches and widen its loan portfolio in line with an overall strategy to build new markets apart from its traditional high-end corporate and Taiwanese customers.

In an interview, Chinatrust president and chief executive Joey Bermudez said the bank, a medium-size regular commercial bank, was interested in expanding its network in Metro Manila and other key urban areas in the country.

On the loans side, the bank is keen on augmenting its consumer and middle-market portfolio, he said.

"If there are opportunities to buy some branch locations to expand our network we will look into that. If there are opportunities to buy a portfolio at a good price, we are prepared to look at it," Bermudez said.

He said a consumer and middle-market portfolio would be appealing to Chinatrust.

"If there are other acquisition opportunities consistent with our business strategy in the long run, we will look into that," he said.

Chinatrust will also consider entering the credit card business and offering personal loans, he said.

Under a five-year business plan proposed by management, Chinatrust will enter the middle market, become a significant player in consumer banking and build capabilities in cash management for its increasing high-end corporate and Taiwanese customers.

"The plan is going to make us significant in many areas outside the Taiwanese community and keep this Taiwanese niche which we now enjoy," Bermudez said.

He said the plan would not require any further infusion of money from shareholders because projected growth would come from internally generated funds.

Bermudez expressed confidence, meanwhile, that the bank would be able to do significantly better this year in terms of profit or roughly 20 percent higher than last year's profit of P200.8 million.

"Our revenues have been good both on the interest and non-interest revenue side," Bermudez noted.

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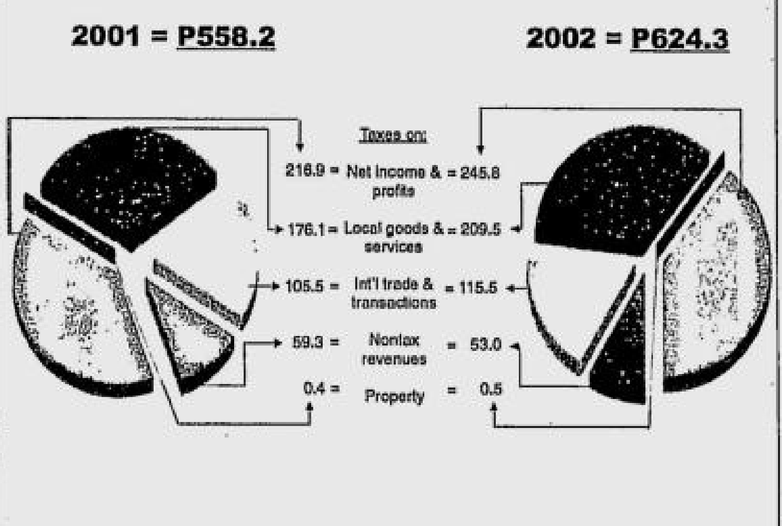
Figures that matter in our nation's life

Projected government revenues

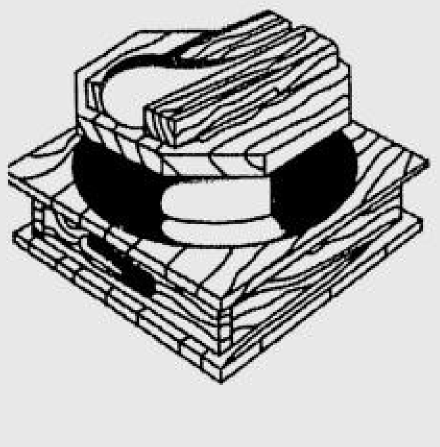
(2001 - 2002, in billion pesos)



Source: Department of Budget & Management's Proposed 2002 budget

The government expects to earn P624.3 billion in tax and non-tax revenues for 2002. Taxes on net income and profits comprised 39.4 percent of the government's projected revenues, followed by taxes on local goods and services. Non-tax revenues arre expected to decrease but its share in total revenues rose to 10.6 percent compared to the 8.5 percent share in 2001.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research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WHEN YOU SIMPLY CAN'T SAY NO TO YOUR JAPANESE FOOD CRAVINGS

BUSINESSFriday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

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PHILIP KOTLER SAYS
Overhaul marketing strategy, or perish

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE BUSINESS environment has already been saddled with difficulties, such as increasing competition, declining purchasing power and dwindling consumer confidence, long before the hijacked planes destroyed the twin towers of the World Trade Center and damaged the Pentagon. The attacks only served to push the teetering world economy over the edge.

But business has to go on, albeit after the layoff of thousands of employees even in the biggest of American companies and the mounting losses due to the economic recession in the United States.

To do this, companies must then take another look at their marketing campaigns to see if there are still patches of business potential that they can capitalize on to keep them going until the economy rebounds.

As marketing guru Philip Kotler said in his paper titled "Marketing in the New Economy"—Marketing, the engine that drives growth, is in desperate need of an overhaul.

New forces

This is because there are new forces that shape today's economy. These include overcapacity and hyper-competition, resulting in falling prices and margins, mergers and company failures; increasing power of customers; globalization and global interdependence; proliferation of channels and media; and, growth of the Internet.

These forces put pressure on the companies operating in different fields to come up with better ways to get a sale. Indeed, the rule on the survival of the fittest applies.

He explains that there are almost always three "generalist" companies that operate in an industry. The generalists focus on a full line of products and high volume and heavy promotion, while specialists focus on a target market, high margins and high service.

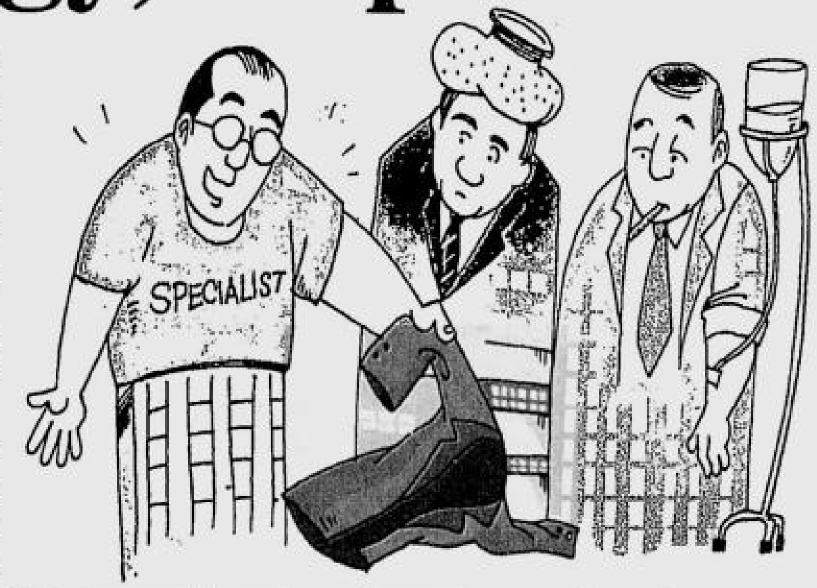
With capital and expertise as scarce as they are, small and medium-size companies stand a betterchance at surviving if they become specialists.

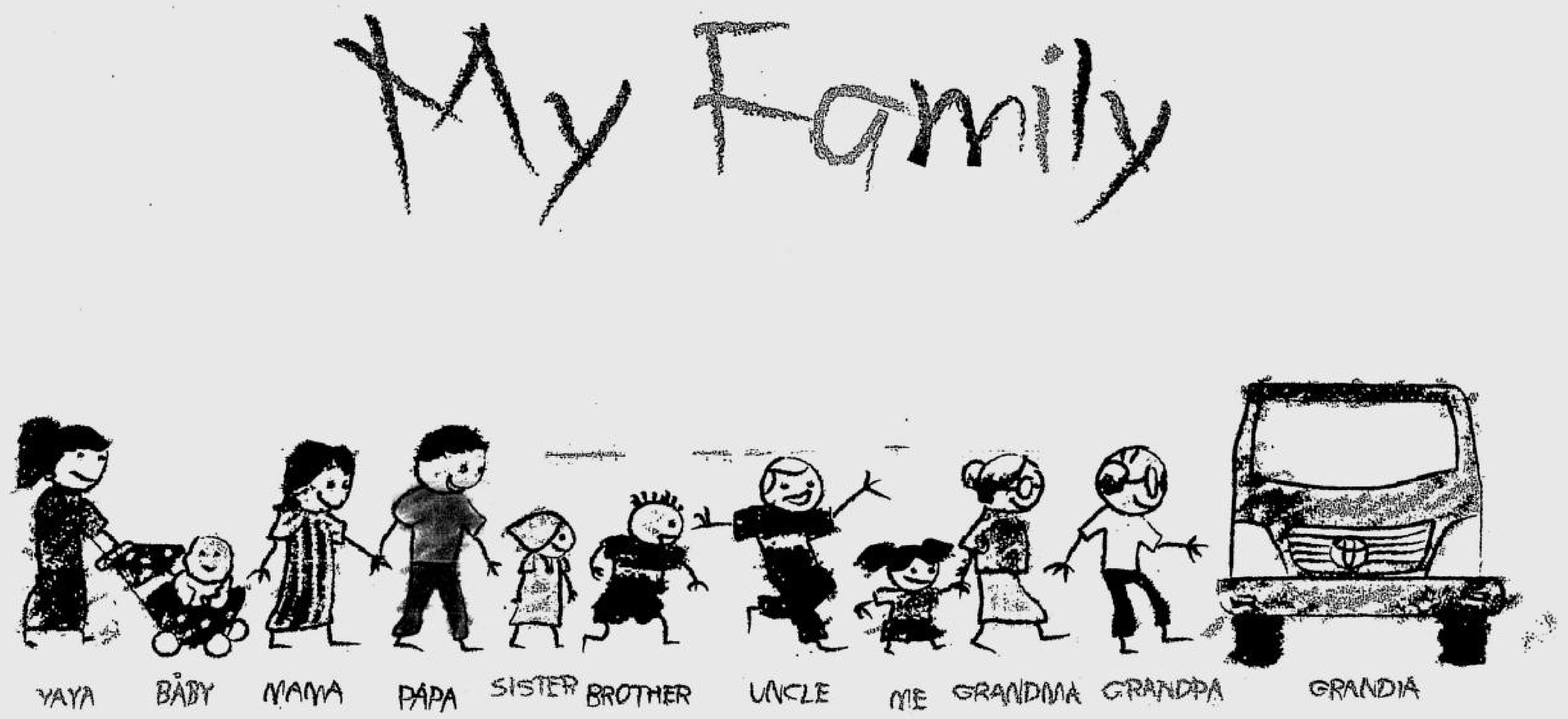
Kotler said specialists could maintain their competitive advantage in today's new economy by:

- maintaining uniqueness through research and development or proprietary databases;
- practicing niche marketing and customization;
- offering sales expertise, great personal service and superior experiences;
- avoiding high fixed costs;
- creating entry barriers; and,
- spawning new specialties or expanding geographically

It also all boils down to improving competitive positioning, and there are many approaches.

OVERHAUL/ C2





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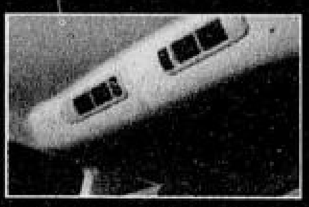
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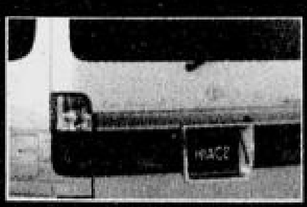
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MARKETING STRATEGY

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

INSTEAD of fighting tooth-and-nail for a bigger share of the shrinking upscale urban market when foreign players started to break into the local insurance sector in the mid-'90s, the United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp. (Cocolife) scouted for greener pastures.

It found a literally green pasture in the provinces.

During the last five years, Cocolife has established a formidable foothold in the provincial areas and expanded its reach beyond the AB class. And the insurance company—now the 7th biggest in the country—has been aptly rewarded for its foresight. One proof is that Cocolife has joined the elite circle of insurance companies when it hit the P1-billion mark in total premium last year.

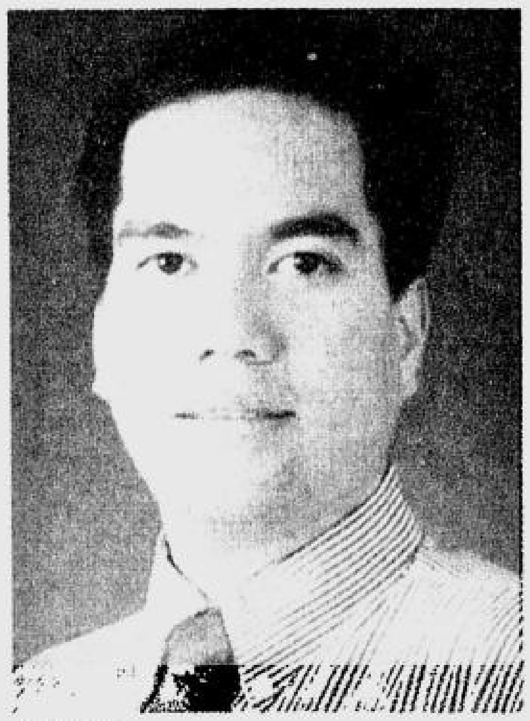
Out of Cocolife's Top 10 (out of a total of 50) branches across the country, seven are provincial branches. It is thus the countryside market that has helped the company become a top insurer and it is likewise the countryside market that is further being harnessed to achieve its goal of rising to the No. 5 ranking by the year 2005. Not bad for an insurer which started out selling contracts only to a captive market within the UCPB group of companies.

Four of the seven top provincial branches, including the No. 1 branch—Tuguegarao in Cagayan Valley—are under the Northeast Luzon area, which is being handled by Cocolife AVP Marco Antonio Montes.

Despite the difficult economic environment, Montes says production in his area—which covers Nueva Ecija, Nueva Viscaya, Isabela and Cagayan de Oro—has been exceeding monthly targets and growing by around 25 percent each year.

Gone are the days when the biggest revenues were coming from Metro Manila. In fact, the Tuguegarao branch in Cagayan has been the Cocolife's No. 1 producer during the last three years.

"Before, Metro Manila and provincial areas are equal as far as production is concerned. But during the last five years, we really saw that the big growth potential is on the provincial areas, if you just get the right people. It doesn't have to be from the AB market in a particular area. Get good people with a knack for selling and with good personality, combined with a good relationship with area manager and provincial manager," Montes says.



MONTES

Montes adds that the company did not focus itself on the AB class, noting that only a small portion of the Philippine population belonged to this class.

"One thing that made us belong to the Top 10 companies in less than 15 years of existence in the industry is that we didn't slug it out with the other big insurance companies in the AB market," he says.

Before the industry was opened to foreign entrants in the mid-1990s, Montes notes that there were only 20 to 24 insurance companies. The competition has swelled since and the players have reached more than 40 in a few years.

"Most of them were focused on Metro Manila and since most of them are foreign companies, they would like to focus on the AB market because they want to grab a big production immediately. So if you want to grab the AB market you have to get AB type of agents and managers," Montes says.

But Cocolife, for its part, decided to focus on the potentials of the non-traditional market and adopt the provincial penetration strategy.

"It would take quite some time for the foreign players and the other existing players to go into the provinces because it's quite expensive to open up a branch office and recruit people," he says.

"But as much as possible, we still concentrate on growth areas. When we open up branches, we try to see the income level, population and economy of that particular locality."

Relationship marketing

For Montes, part and parcel of marketing insurance policies is investing generously on the people who will, after all, go out to meet clients and secure new contracts. When he was assigned to head the northeast Luzon area, the company's network was already existing and the only remaining task was to further improve productivity of his sales people.

"I try to build up something like a bank account with them, like an emotional bank account. Every little thing I can do for them, I'll do it. It may be personal or it may be professional, like driving them to the bus station or picking them up. What their problem is, I know. I find out their needs such as cash advances, car loan, housing loan and I'd find ways within our guidelines and procedures how to help them," Montes says.

Three to four years before he was assigned to the area, Montes says the branches were producing only P2 or P3 million in premiums each year, which he noted was only average performance based on industry standard.

"What I did was to raise productivity. One branch was able to generate P5 million from P4 million while another was able to increase from P2 million to P4.5 million," Montes says.

Montes says Cocolife has had to improve its compensation package to agents to encourage people to stay with the company, on top of a lot of incentives.

We've changed our compensation package three or four times, starting with the manager, aligning our compensation with foreign players. Somehow, it has neutralized the effect of allowances given by multinational corporations and once our agents stay for five years, they stay for a long time," he says.

Montes says there was still a lot of room for the insurance business to flourish.

"In Japan the average is 2.5 to 3 insurance policies per person. The original vision by the Insurance Commission was that 20 percent of the insurable population would be insured by 2000 and that's the 20-20 vision. The industry managed to insure only 17 percent and this doesn't even track people with multiple policies," Montes says.

Helping an average person earn above-average income

THOSE who've logged boot-camp experience in the trenches of the direct selling industry would always remember the day they earned their stripes. And we don't mean the day they gained their freedom from wage slavery, made the initial payment on their dream house or booked a world tour.

Health, wealth, career and personal satisfaction have been achieved through direct sales by people with intriguing stories on the circumstances that led them to decide to be in control of their future:

Believing in one's own ability to succeed is one direct selling secret that Dette Gacura of Tondo, Manila knows only too well.

A former nine-to-fiver, Gacura embraced the wisdom that winners don't quit and now turns in an average sale of P1.8 million a month as an Avon sales associate.

AVON ladies Dette Gacura (second from left) and Lolit Ignacio (center) with the Avon Tondo team (from left), Nestor de Guzman, branch operations manager; Libby Cenzial, branch sales manager; and Paul Roque, officer in charge.

She said it helps that she has chosen the right company to start with. Having been in a boring job for so long, Gacura was lured into direct selling by the idea of becoming her own boss and earning an income that would ensure her family's financial independence.

But while direct sales is a field where anyone can win and is recognized as the lowest risk and at low risk, she said there are companies that don't deliver on these promises.

In Avon she found a company that helped her work toward her goal of financial security through products that are easy to sell. It is, after all, a given in this field that the more one sells, the better one earns.

"The opportunity to earn more with less effort was a common promise, but all that was proven right in due time," said Lolit Ignacio, another resident of Tondo who was recruited by Gacura.

Lolit realized that the dream that prodded her to become a domestic helper for eight years could be realized here in her own neighborhood.

Taking in about P100,000 worth of sales a month, she is now able to send her three children to college. But she's even more proud of the fact that her success boosted her confidence and self-esteem.

Lolit said that the training she got as an Avon Lady afforded her an opportunity for personal growth. "Before joining the organization, there were a lot of people I didn't feel I could or would be able to speak to. But now I have the self-confidence to talk to anyone I want, and conquer the world selling."

Feeling inspired, she is certain she found the right profession and would even encourage others to go out in the field and fight it out in spite of the economic crunch.

"We tell them this the right time to go into direct selling and that they will not fail if they put their hearts and minds into reaching their goals," Lolit said.

With a commission plan geared toward creating results for team members, she said that Avon offers an attractive package for people who dream of working from home and taking serious control of their financial future. The structure includes special bonuses every time a representative moves to a new level of achievement.

"That means rewards for results, incentives for accomplishments. That means, representatives can create their own vision for prosperity and success," she added.

Direct sellers are truly into something big. The Direct Selling Association of the Philippines (DSAP) represents 25 member-companies. These companies, in turn, represent a combined sales force of more than 2 million distributors from across the Philippines. That means there is one direct seller for every 7.5 households in the country. Last year, the 25 member-companies of DSAP registered an estimated sale of P14.9 billion, 20 percent more than in 1999.

Simply put, direct selling helps make the average person make an above-average income.

Are your retirement benefits taxable?

TAX-FILES

BY RITA S. FERNANDEZ
SGV & Co.

YOU know that fantasy you have about retirement? The one where you cart off your retirement benefits and spend your days lazing around your retirement dream house? Well, better make sure that once you get those retirement benefits, the government will not get a chunky slice of the pie. Finding out that one's retirement benefits are subject to income tax is one retirement gift no one needs.

Under the Tax Code, retirement benefits, pensions, gratuities are to be excluded in the computation of the gross income. Among these are retirement benefits received by employees of private firms, whether individual or corporate i.e., those received under Republic Act No. 7641 and those received by officials and employees in accordance with a reasonable private benefit plan maintained by the employer.

RA No. 7641

Republic Act No. 7641 or the New Retirement Law mandates all private employers with at least 10 employees to pay retirement benefits to qualified employees in the absence of a retirement plan. Under this law, any employee may be retired upon reaching the retirement age established in the collective bargaining agreement or other applicable employment contract. The law further states that in the absence of a retirement plan or agreement providing for retirement benefits of employees in the establishment, an employee upon reaching the age of 60 years or more, but not beyond 65 years which is hereby declared the compulsory retirement age, who has served at least five years in the said establishment, may retire and shall be entitled to retirement pay equivalent to at least one-half month salary for every year of service, a fraction of at least six months being considered as one whole year.

Private benefit plan

On the other hand, a reasonable private benefit plan as defined under the Tax Code means a pension, gratuity, stock bonus or profit-sharing plan maintained by the employer for the benefit of some or all of his officials or employees, wherein contributions are made by such employer for the officials or employees, or both, for the purpose of distributing to such officials and employees the earnings and principal of the fund thus accumulated, and wherein it is provided in said plan that at no time shall any part of the corpus or income of the fund be used for, or be diverted to, any purpose other than for the exclusive benefit of the said officials and employees.

In order for retirement benefits given under a reasonable private benefit plan to be entitled to the exemption, the Private Retirement Benefit Plan Regulations requires that the plan must be reasonable, the retiring official or employee must have been in the service of the same employer for at least 10 years and is not less than 50 years of age at the time of his retirement; and the retiring employee shall not have previously availed of the privilege under a retirement benefit plan for the same or another employer.

It is to be noted that the law requires that the plan must be reasonable. Who will then determine whether the plan is reasonable or not? Revenue Regulations No. 1-83, which amends the Private Retirement Benefit Plan Regulations, provides that before availing of the privileges afforded by pension, gratuity, profit-sharing or stock bonus plans, a certificate must be secured by the employer to the effect that the qualification of the plan for tax exemption has been determined.

The commissioner of internal revenue decides whether or not the plan is qualified and if so a certificate of qualification is issued. In order for the plan to qualify as a reasonable retirement benefit plan, it must meet the following requisites:

- ● It must be a definite written program setting forth all provisions essential for qualification.
- ● It must be a permanent and continuing program unless sooner terminated by virtue of a valid business reason.
- ● It must cover at least 70 percent of all officials and employees; the employer, or officials and employees, or both, shall contribute to a trust fund for the purpose of distributing to the officials and employees or their beneficiaries, the corpus and income of the fund accumulated by the trust in accordance with the plan.
- ● The corpus or income of the trust fund must at no time be used for, or diverted to, any purpose other than for the exclusive benefit of the said officials and employees.
- ● There must be no discrimination in contributions or benefits in favor of officials and employees who are officers, shareholders, supervisors or highly compensated.
- ● It must provide for non-forfeitable rights; the plan must expressly provide that forfeiture arising from severance of employment, death or any other reason, must not be applied to increase the benefits any employee would otherwise receive under the plan at any time prior to the termination of the plan or the complete discontinuance of employer contributions thereunder.
- ● The retirement fund shall be administered by a trust.

During the period that the plan is in operation, amendments thereto may be introduced. Such amendments should also be submitted for certification that the amendments do not affect the qualification of the plan. If found to be beneficial to the employee-members of the plan, an amendatory certificate of qualification shall be issued by the commissioner of internal revenue upon payment of the corresponding fees.

Recently, the BIR issued Revenue Regulations No. 11-2001 amending the fees to be paid by the employer upon issuance of the certificate of qualification or the amendatory certificate of qualification. However, employers not having more than five employees shall be exempt from the fees prescribed by the regulations. The fees shall accrue to the general fund and shall be deposited with the National Treasury.

Since retirement benefits as above discussed are excluded in computing for the gross income, the same are not subject to the withholding tax on compensation. Thus, retirement benefits received under RA No. 7641 and those received by officials and employees of private firms, whether individual or corporate, under a reasonable private benefit plan maintained by the employer provided certain requirements are met. One of these requirements is that the benefit plan must be approved by the BIR.

On the part of the employer making the contributions, the employer may claim said contributions as deductions from gross income. Section 34(J) of the Tax Code provides that an employer establishing or maintaining a pension trust to provide for the payment of reasonable pensions to his employees shall be allowed as a deduction the contributions to such trust during the taxable year to cover the pension liability accruing during the year and a reasonable amount transferred or paid into such trust during the taxable year in excess of such contributions, but only if such amount has not theretofore been allowed as a deduction and is apportioned in equal parts over a period of 10 consecutive years beginning with the year in which the transfer or payment is made.

Since the law requires certain requisites for retirement benefits to be excluded from gross income, it is therefore important for both employer and employees to know what these requisites are in order to avail of the exemption provided for by law. Once you have ascertained the non-taxability of your retirement benefits, it would then be time to move on to the next important question—how long will those benefits last?

(For comments and suggestions, please send an e-mail to sgv mail@Andersen WO.)

Overhaul marketing strategy, or perish

(From page C1)

The so-called one-way positioning is to be No. 1 in some important attribute, so that your company will be the most remembered and preferred.

"If you are the second to enter the market, don't call yourself No. 2. Call yourself No. 1 on a different important attribute," Kotler said.

There is also the three-way positioning in relation to three value disciplines: product leadership, operational excellence and customer intimacy.

Three-way

Kotler shares the four rules for success under three-way positioning:

1. Become best at one of the three value disciplines.
2. Achieve an adequate performance level in the other two disciplines.
3. Keep improving one's superior position in the chosen discipline so as not to lose out to a competitor.
4. Keep becoming more adequate in the other two disciplines because competitors keep raising customers' expectations about what is adequate.

The five-way positioning method, on the other hand, requires a company to position itself along five attributes: product, price, ease of access, value-added service and customer experience.

"A great company will dominate on one of these, perform above average along a second and be at industry par with respect to the remaining three," he said.

Some examples include superstore chain Wal-Mart, which is dominant on price, differentiated on product and on industry par with access, service and experience.

Target, meanwhile, dominates on product and is differentiated on price compared to average competitors. Target combines hip design with value pricing.

McDonald's dominates on access, American Express dominates on service and the Four Seasons dominates on experience.

PLACE MARKETING

Hey tourists, terrorism won't work here

By Dennis M. Arroyo

IN BUSINESS schools, there is a branch of study called place marketing.

You promote an area as a desirable business site or as a tourist destination.

"Place marketing involves activities undertaken to create, maintain, or change attitudes or behavior towards particular places, "goes the textbook definition.

To advertise her attractions, Texas used the line, "It's like a whole other country. "The slogan for Michigan was YES M!CH!GAN, while that for Florida was "The Best of Everything." Sometimes nations can even "demarket" themselves to lessen the impact of tourism. Finland dissuades tourists from visiting some areas.

Back home, the tourism department marketed the Philippines as "The Fiesta Islands." At one point, Cebu knew that the whole country suffered from an image problem, so she stressed a different theme. The slogan was "Cebu: an Island in the Pacific."

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon is burning the midnight oil finding ways to get more visitors to come here. This is very difficult, given the downturn of the global economy and the new fear of flying due to the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Refuge against terrorism

So I humbly suggest the following angle. The Philippines is the destination where terrorism simply won't work. It is "The Refuge."

This conclusion arises from various e-mails and my own reflections.

Consider what will happen if al-Qaida terrorists try to attack Metro Manila.

The worst scenario is the plane strike following the mode of Sept. 11.

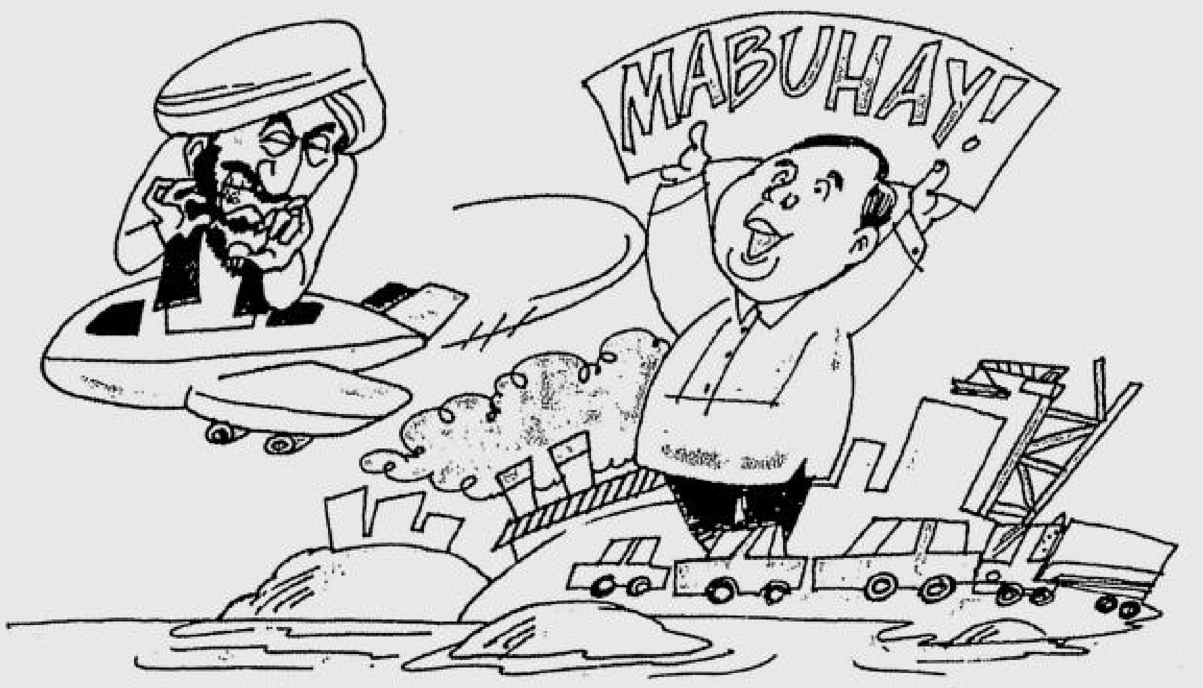
But terrorists will get into trouble with the airlines. Let's see them follow their schedule when the plane is always late. Or they may take off from Cebu and land in the Pacific. Entering as Asians, they will leave as spirits.

Besides, the passengers will resist the hijackers with ready weapons. They will stone them with their rock-hard snacks.

Air pollution

Moreover, our buildings are not very tall. A 747 will have to fly low, raising the risk of hitting the wrong building. The terrorist pilot will just crash into a condominium under construction. Due to the state of the economy, money needed to finish construction projects will have to wait.

As pointed out by another article, few people will be killed even if the building is not under construction. Because of the downturn, occupancy rates are low.



The terror pilots will have to contend with poor visibility. Metro Manila's air pollution hovers over the city like a gentle protective shield.

Casualties will be minimal as Filipinos come to work late. The 9 a.m. crash appointment will find many office workers stuck in their cars at the Edsa-Quezon Avenue intersection.

Firemen won't be killed either. They will come late as it will take them a longer time to store enough water due to the low-pressure trickle.

Poor anthrax spores

Bioterrorism won't work. The postal system is so slow that the poor anthrax spores will just expire in the envelopes.

Neither will a chemical attack succeed. The LRT and MRT are so crowded during rush time that the sarin gas will be diluted by all that exhaled carbon dioxide.

Truck bombing? The terrorists will be confused in this strange land where traffic rules are more accurately described as traffic suggestions. The yellow light here means speed up rather than slow down. Besides, the terror trucks won't get anywhere in Edsa when there is a Midnight Madness sale.

Counterstrike

What about cyberterrorism? It will be hard for terrorists to send a virus anonymously. Let's see them find a vacant computer in the Internet cafes after exam week, the time when term papers are due. They can't wait for sembreak either, as the youth are engrossed playing Counter Strike.

The terrorists would have to coordinate their movements through coded statements via cell phones. Then they discover to their dismay that all lines are busy. Worse, they will learn that they had been ripped off. The cheap cell phones sold to them don't work because they were the stolen GSM variety: *"Galing sa magnanakaw."*

The terrorist cells will also be worn down during the months of preparation. They will keep getting their payments late: ATMs will welcome them with friendly OFFLINE signs.

All told, terrorists don't stand a chance here. The Department of Tourism will do well to adopt the following slogan for place marketing.

"Philippines: Where Terror is an Error." *(Comments to dennis_arroyo@hotmail.com)*

It's time to take a look at consumers

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE NINE-MEMBER Advertising Board of the Philippines is trying a new formula in the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress this year. Instead of focusing on its members' needs and interests, it is going to focus on that group that each member serves—the consumer.

Thus the theme—Target: Market.

"Our past themes were aspirational. We asked, isn't it about time we focus our theme on something basic? Whom are we really servicing? Our job is to delight consumers. If we stop delighting our consumers, we are no more, we stop," explains Pedro N. Dy-Liacco, overall chair of the Congress.

The Ad Congress is going to be held in Cebu on Nov. 21–24.

Dy-Liacco says the Adboard members which consists of advertisers, ad agencies, suppliers, media, realized it was "time to refocus our attention on the single unit most important to us."

During the past months, a tri-media campaign has been ongoing, inviting the public to attend the Congress. The central theme of the ads is to portray different niche markets like the greying market, and gays. This is to bring attention to the increasing range of markets that need to be addressed today.

Topics to be discussed include "How Children Behave as Consumers," "Myths and Truths of the Teens market," "The Emerging Gray Market," "Dollar Earner, Peso Spender (the OFW market)."

The move to veer away from its traditional themes was also due to the realization that after each Congress, no solutions were actually taken.

"During this Congress, we will not discuss issues pertinent to the industry. No specific actions or resolutions are taken. I believe the Ad Congress is not the venue for that. The Ad Congress is an opportunity for people to be together in one place. If people come away feeling good and picking up one or two things, then that is good. If they pick up two or more things, that is very good," Dy-Liacco says.

The Congress chair, who is also an SVP and director of communications of Nestle Philippines Inc., says he feels that advertising industry has a vital role to play in the country's economy.

"I think the industry today can do a lot in sounding much more optimistic and not be too negative, he said."

He points out that advertisers and members of media should do its share in advertising products and services that can push people to spend and therefore lead to economic growth.

"If you spur consumers to spend more, the economy will be benefited," he states, sharing that the National Economic and Development Authority has pointed out that up to 75 percent of the economy is influenced by personal consumption.

"If the ad industry helps sustain that and we continue our positive efforts in the long-run, we can help the economy," Dy-Liacco says.

Dy-Liacco admits there are no accurate figures to gauge advertising expenditures in the country. The only group that is keeping tabs is AC Nielsen, but Dy-Liacco says that even the group is stating that the figures should be handled with caution.

The numbers are based on rate cards. Rate cards are simply the list of the cost of ad placements in a TV, radio or print entity.

The problem is that most of these amounts are subject to negotiations. At the same time it cannot be determined whether an ad placement is paid for or is free.

He says that according to the latest Nielsen report, ad expenditures have grown 16 percent as of end-Sept. to P70 billion over the same period last year.

However, businesses have complained of declined consumer spending.

Dy-Liacco admits that even Nestle, which had projected single-digit growth targets this year, has been struggling to meet this.

But he hopes that more positive reports could prompt higher consumer spending and salvage the weakening economy.

New fashion center hits Greenbelt

MAKATI habitues now have another reason to frolic around Greenbelt Arcade. G-Mix (Greenbelt Mix), a Mediterranean-inspired, electronically advanced establishment is now open to cater to the metropolis' need of a shopping center that fits its lifestyle.

G-Mix is the future of shopping. It is designed to reflect the lifestyle of the fashion-conscious Makati executives and frequenters of this busy city who have a strong purchasing power but are wise spenders.

G-Mix, located at the second level of the Greenbelt Arcade, now occupies the area where the Fairmart Department Store was formerly located. The complete transformation of Fairmart Greenbelt is in line with the company's celebration of its 30th anniversary this year.

G-Mix is where fashion and communications is a lifestyle. It is a 3,000-square meter haven of 59 fashion boutiques that sell the trendiest and most diverse selections of labeled outfits, shoes, bags, and fad wares at reasonable prices. A factory priced section of brands aptly named Factory2U, and the Factory Outlet, where grocery goodies are at its best market value. G-Mix likewise houses the 3Gs Cellphone, a chain of 30 outlets that sell cellular phone, accessories and other communications gadgets, and the Smart Wireless Center. An H20 Health and Beauty Shop can be found at the ground floor of G-Mix for women's health and beauty care needs.

"G-Mix's fashion boutiques boast of overwhelming collections of all imported ladies, men, and kids wears. Bags, shoes and other trendy wares are the latest models, so men and women, me young and the old can find whatever they need at the G-Mix," the mall says in a statement.

What sets G-Mix apart from other popular shopping centers and highbrow department stores is that it lives and breathes the future of shopping, evident on the system of purchasing transaction. Although customers may still use the conventional mode of payment, which is through cash, they will have an opportunity to be among the first to practice a new method of payment known as the electronic cash (e-cash). Shoppers practically don't need to bring cash as purchase only requires a pre-loaded electronic card.

And to celebrate G-Mix's opening, the first 1,000 visitors will have the chance to take home exciting raffle prizes from G-Mix's shops—hot items each worth P500, trendy cellular phones, and cash prizes worth P10,000. Smart Money e-cash card will also be given away for free to all shoppers.

G-Mix targets a niche market—the "fashionistas" of Makati City who are always on the lookout for fashionable and trendy buys, but who never hesitate to get them at good bargain. They epitomize the shoppers of the future: those who don't spend a centavo without getting everything of its worth in return.

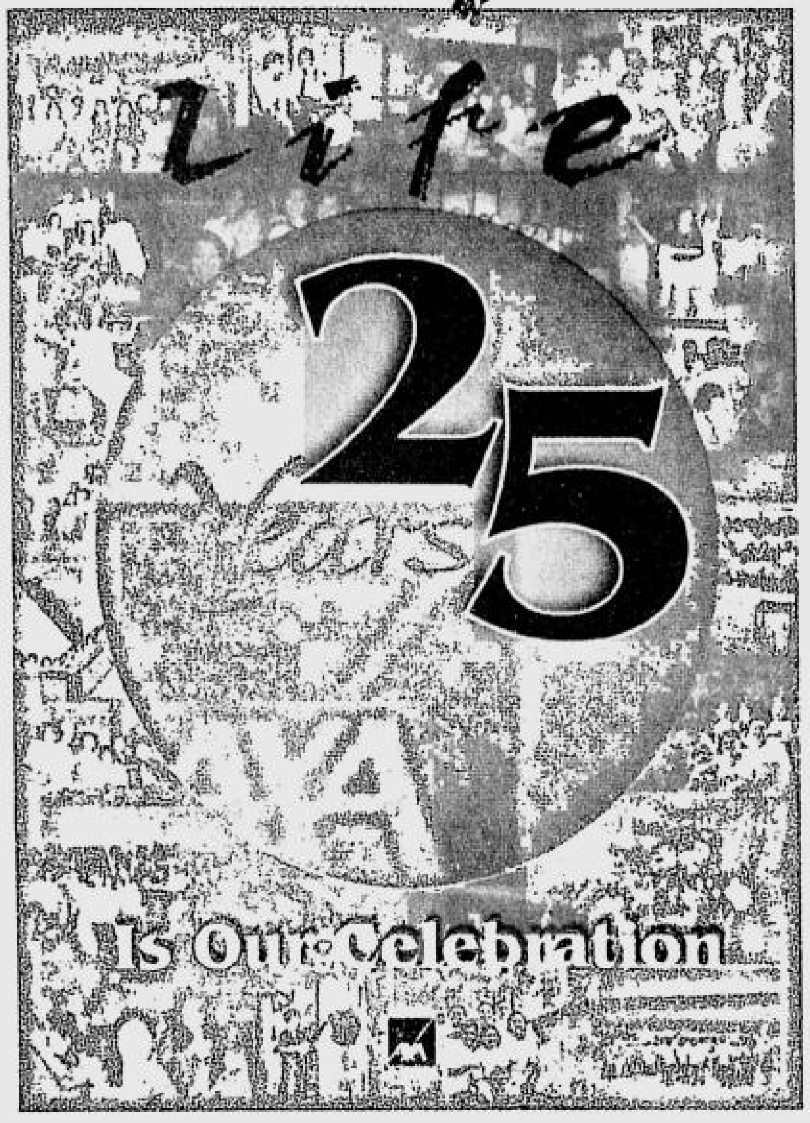
PEARLfection

In all our dealings with you –
our customers,
partners and suppliers,
the highest standards of quality
and service have always been
our guiding principle.

30 years of DHL
WORLDWIDE EXPRESS®

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION

'Life is our celebration'



PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE

METROBANK

PHILIPPINE AXA Life is proud of its long history of continued service to the Filipino people. Close to sixty thousand Filipinos and hundreds of business companies are now enjoying the AXA Life promise of security. Today, as it marks its 25th anniversary, Philippine AXA Life captures this milestone with the theme, "Life is Our Celebration."

The company's silver anniversary is highlighted by a weeklong activity that will symbolize the gratitude the company has for the people and institutions that are instrumental to the success it has reaped over the years.

The week has been kicked-off by "Silver Fever." This is the anniversary celebration participated in by the Sales Force. The night was concluded with a renewed commitment from its people to deliver bigger production as the year concludes. This will strategically secure the company's dominance in the Philippine life insurance industry.

The second and third day of the company's one week of anniversary festivity is marked by the "Food Tripping sa AXA." In this activity, the whole Philippine AXA Life had a chance to dine together in one place. This was served by select concessionaires, namely, E! box, Miggy's, Seattle's Best Coffee, Jake Street, Hen Lin and Holland Sausage. Highlight of this "dining together" was the acoustic entertainment provided by "Friends for Life." "Friends for Life" is a five-member band composed by homegrown talents. They are Mike Sibayan, Paul de Jesus, Glenda Lapez, Roselle Geronimo and Vanessa Geronimo.

Day four was the occasion to thank the company's group business contributors. During "The Broker's Night," plaques of appreciation were given to top brokers.

Inspired by the global AXA's commitment to community service through its program AXA Atout Couer, Philippine AXA Life shares its 25 years of triumphs via its participation to the "Habitat for Humanity" *(see ralated story)* and the program, "A Gift for Life." "A Gift for Life" is the opportunity of the employees to share to the less fortunate via monetary and gift donation. The gathered donations was turned-over to Metrobank Foundation for distribution.

The week is concluded with a big bash for the employees of Philippine AXA Life. "Our people is our best asset," enthused by AXA Life president, Victor P. Quisumbing. The employee bash is highlighted by a variety show that will showcase the local singing and dancing talents.

"We foresee Philippine AXA Life to be a strong player among the top four in the life insurance industry within the next three years. We are now No. 7 in terms of First Year Premium Income in the industry. I firmly believe that the success we enjoy today and the future challenges we will be conquering will not be possible without our people," asserts Quisumbing. He further added, "Life is Our Celebration" is our way of saying thank you to the employees, sales force and clients of Philippine AXA Life.

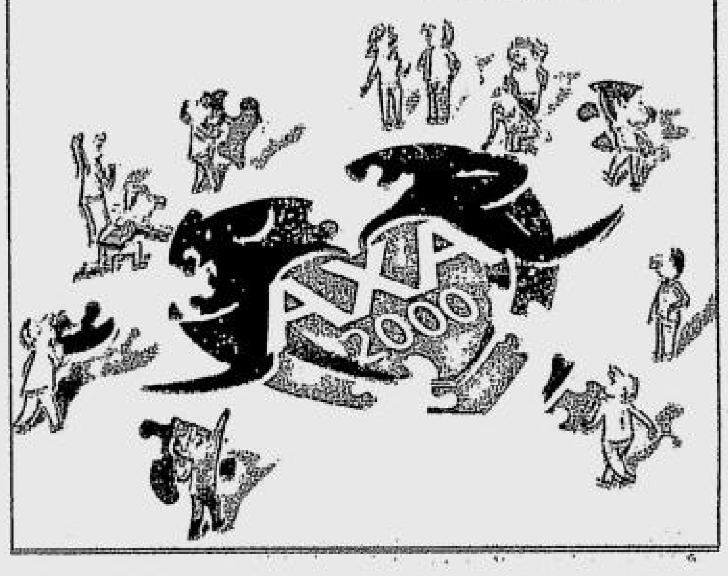
Philippine AXA Life is a partnership between two financial giants, Metrobank, the largest bank in the Philippines and AXA Group, the largest insurer in the world.

Metrobank is the country's leading bank with a wide network of 822 branches and offices nationwide. This is supported by over 7,000 employees. It boasts of consolidated assets totaling to P459 billion and capital funds of over P48 billion.

The AXA Group is hailed by Fortune 500 as the largest insurer in the world for the past three years. AXA Group has revenues totaling to US$92.78 billion with assets under management of US$445 billion. It employs 140,000 staff and agents worldwide.

> "We foresee Philippine AXA Life to be a strong player among the top four in the life insurance industry within the next three years"
>
> *Victor P. Quisumbing*
> *President & CEO*

hearts
in action



A salute to loyalty

"LOYALTY is a rare quality to find nowadays especially in the midst of high demand for workers with high expertise," says Philippine AXA Life president and CEO Victor P. Quisumbing. He adds on, "We are very lucky that not only do we have a minefield of dedicated, hardworking and adept people, but they also have a high sense of loyalty."

AXA Life president along with its chairperson Elvira Ong Chan presented four people with 10 years loyalty award. There are five recipients of 15 years loyalty award. One person stands proud as the recipient of 25 years loyalty award.

Employee Loyalty Awardees

Lea Cristobal. 10 years. She is now a supervisor in the Cash Section. Lea advocates and practices self-improvement through continuous education. In fact, she has already completed numerous LOMA (Life Office Management Association) exams with almost perfect to perfect score. She graduated from the University of the East with BSBA Accounting degree in 1989.

Lorna Labayan. 10 years. She is an assistant in the Policy Administration Section. Lorna has earned the title of Associate of Customer Service from LOMA. She graduated from Polytechnic University of the Philippines in 1989 with Office Administration Degree.

Maricris Valencia. 10 years. Cris is an administration support assistant in the BankAssure Division. She has an Associate of Customer Service title from LOMA. She has a BS Behavioral Science Degree from Maryknoll College. She graduated in 1989.

Normie Francisco. 15 years. Normie joined Philippine AXA Life in 1986 as a staff in Accounting Department. Fifteen years later she is now the manager of policy service section. To her credit are the titles Associate of Customer Service and Fellow Life Management Institute. In college, Normie was a consistent Dean's Lister. She graduated cum laude with a degree in AB Management from Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Miliano Vidanes. 15 years. Emil is an assistant vice president for group technical and actuarial division. It was an admirable climb from his entry position of actuarial assistant in 1986. He graduated in 1985 at the University of the Philippines with BS Mathematics degree.

Tessie del Rosario. 25 years. Respected for her length of service and contribution to the company, she is fondly called by everyone as "Ima." She attended courses on Customer Relations and Leadership that helped her in the conduct of her day-to-day work. Ima holds an AB English degree from Manuel L. Quezon University in Manila.

Sales Associate Loyalty Awardees

Vicky Cabrera. She joined

A SALUTE/ C7

TESSIE DEL ROSARIO
25 years in service

MILIANO VIDANES
15 years in service

NORMIE FRANCISCO
15 years in service

LEA CRISTOBAL
10 years in service

MARICRIS VALENCIA
10 years in service

LORNA LABAYAN
10 years in service

BENITO CHAN
15 years in service

RHONDA REY
15 years in service

MABINI FAJARDO
15 years in service

Philippine AXA Life: a heart in action

THE AXA Atout Coeur or AXA Hearts in Action is one of the regional projects of AXA Global that encourages all its member countries to have active civic involvement. The house dedication and the man-hour construction done by Philippine AXA Life to Habitat for Humanity is one of its support programs to the global cause of AXA.

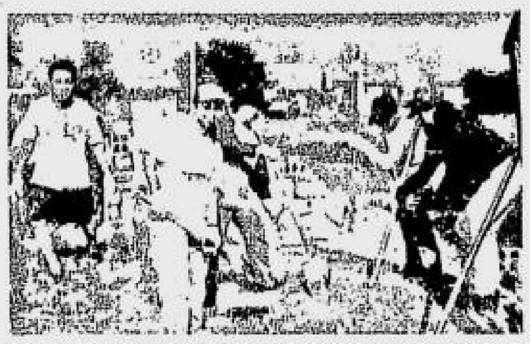
Today, the Philippine AXA Life 25th anniversary celebration will be highlighted by a turnover and dedication ceremony to the beneficiary family. Elvira Ong Chan, chairperson of Philippine AXA Life and Vida T. Chion, deputy commissioner of the Insurance Commission, are guests of honor in the house dedication along with Philippine AXA Life executives headed by its president and CEO, Victor P. Quisumbing.

The housing project is located at Orchard Homes, Pulang Lupa Uno, Las Piñas City. The house built by Philippine AXA Life is a product of 105 selfless and dedicated officers and staff of the company who worked straight over a three-week period. Its construction was made possible in collaboration with the Habitat for Humanity Las Piñas Inc., the National Housing Authority and the local government of Las Piñas City.

The project was initiated by Ms Chan, chairperson of the Metrobank Foundation upon the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation Inc. to donate P1.2 million to support the construction of five houses in Orchard Homes Subdivision in Las Pinas. Philippine AXA Life was one of the five Metrobank affiliates invited to participate and support this project through its share of financial assistance amounting to P120,000.

Founded by Millard and Linda Fuller in 1976 in Georgia, USA, Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation Inc. is a nonprofit ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Former President Jimmy Carter went to the Philippines two years ago to set up this humanitarian project in the Philippines. To date, it has given homes to over 60,000 families worldwide.

MANCOM members get in the action. From left: SEVP and CMO Ricky dela Cruz, SVP Mon Fernandez, EVP Mike Montes and president and CEO Vic Quisumbing shovel in gravel in preparation for the flooring of the house. Habitat site engineer Ed Quilates assists Vic Quisumbing. Not included in photo are EVP and CFO Adrian Allott and EVP Beverly Serrano.


PHILIPPINE AXA Life employees dig a ditch to prepare for the foundation of another house in the site.

EVP Beverly Serrano (extreme left) takes a grip on the iron bars to be used for the roofing of the house.

SAVP Norma Santos (extreme left) and group administration staff passes on the cement buckets.

MANCOM members keep the assembly line busy with the stacking up of hollow blocks that would finish part of the house's façade.

AU BATANES (in purple long sleeves) of the executive office seriously takes her digging task in motion. Dig in Au!

Life is our celebration!

Milestones

December 1998 — The AXA Group forged a joint venture with the Metrobank Group, the Philippines' largest financial conglomerate. The partnership transformed Metrobank's life insurance arm, Pan Philippines Life Insurance Corp. (Philippine Life), into Philippine AXA Life.

January 1999 — Philippine AXA Life was launched formally to the market.

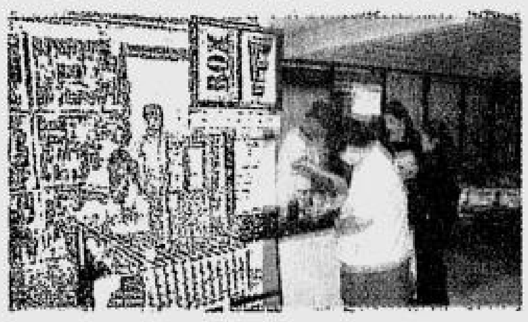
May 1999 — After the approval of the change of the name of Philippine AXA Life from Pan Philippines, the company took numerous external initiatives to introduce the new brand name of the company such as press releases, print ads and radio advertisements.

July 2000 — The new product packages of Philippine AXA Life called the Star Series was introduced to the market via the agencies distribution channel.

2001 — Increase in first-year premium income meant climb to the 7th position for Philippine AXA Life from the number nine position the previous year.

October 26, 2001 — Marks the company's 25th anniversary. This is celebrated with full print media support and a weeklong company activity.

Anniversary scenes



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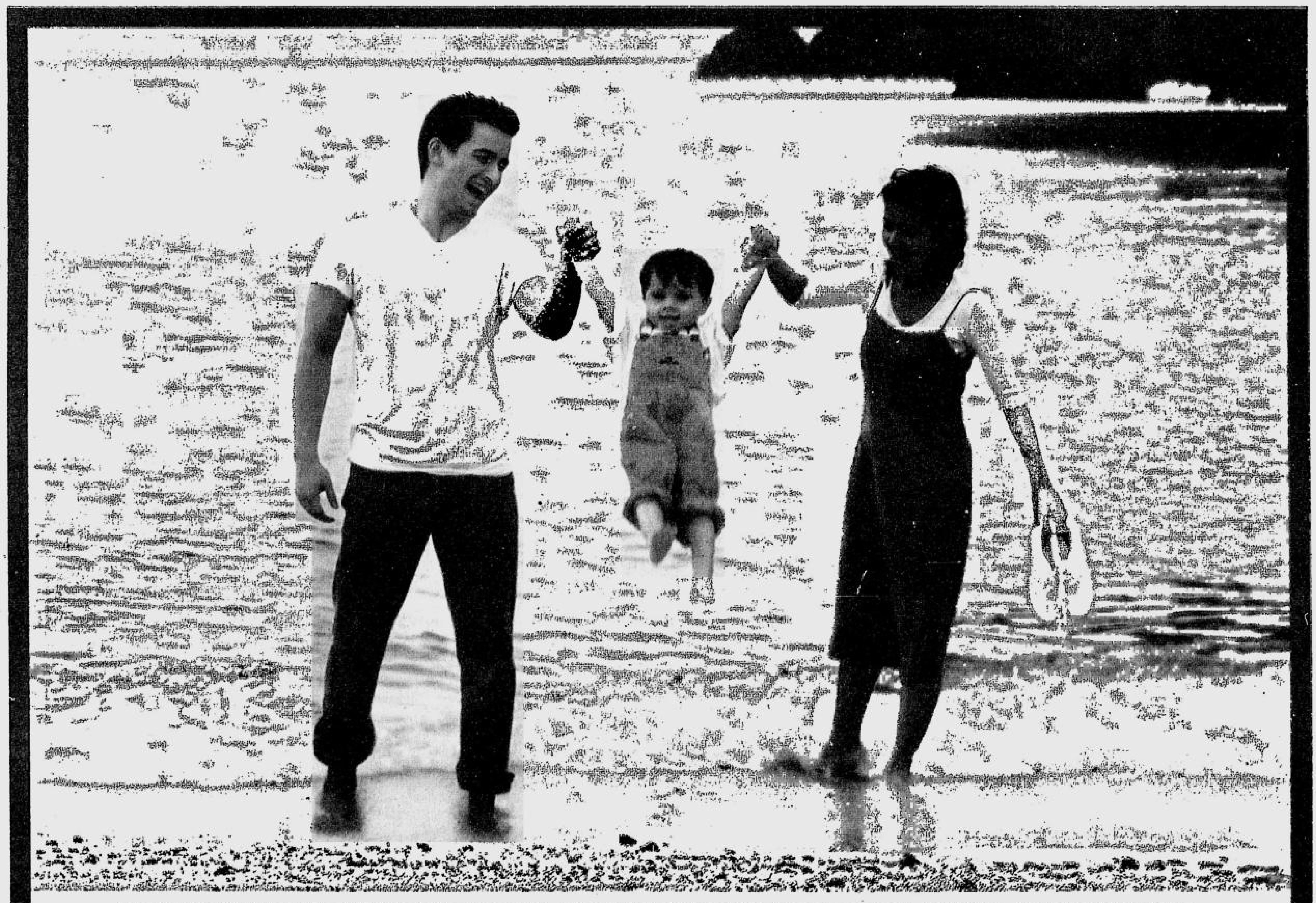
— GREGORIO P. ALCANTARA, JR.
Chairman and President



There's nothing like having the world's largest insurer and the country's leading bank beside you.

When preparing a secure future for your family, you can count on Philippine AXA Life to be with you every step of the way. Backed by Metrobank, the country's leading bank, and the global AXA Group. Through innovative insurance products and services, Philippine AXA Life gives you the means to meet your family's changing needs – in health, with your finances, with your children's education, as well as the heritage you will leave them with when the time comes. All these are within your reach now, as you prepare for their future. So when your thoughts ponder on what lies ahead, you'll have no worries. Not when you're backed by Philippine AXA Life.

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- Free personal accident insurance from Philippine AXA Life.
- Free BP reading, blood typing and sugar counting courtesy of Manila Doctors Hospital.

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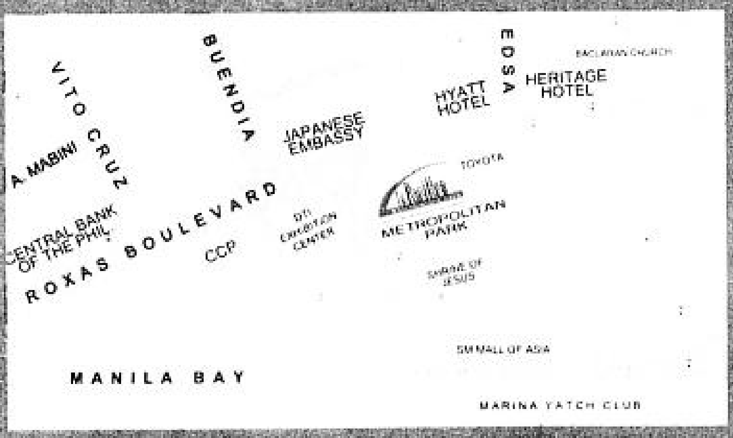
METROPOLITAN PARK
ROXAS BLVD. cor. EDSA EXT.
NOVEMBER 16, 17, & 18, 2001
9:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1447, Series of 2001.

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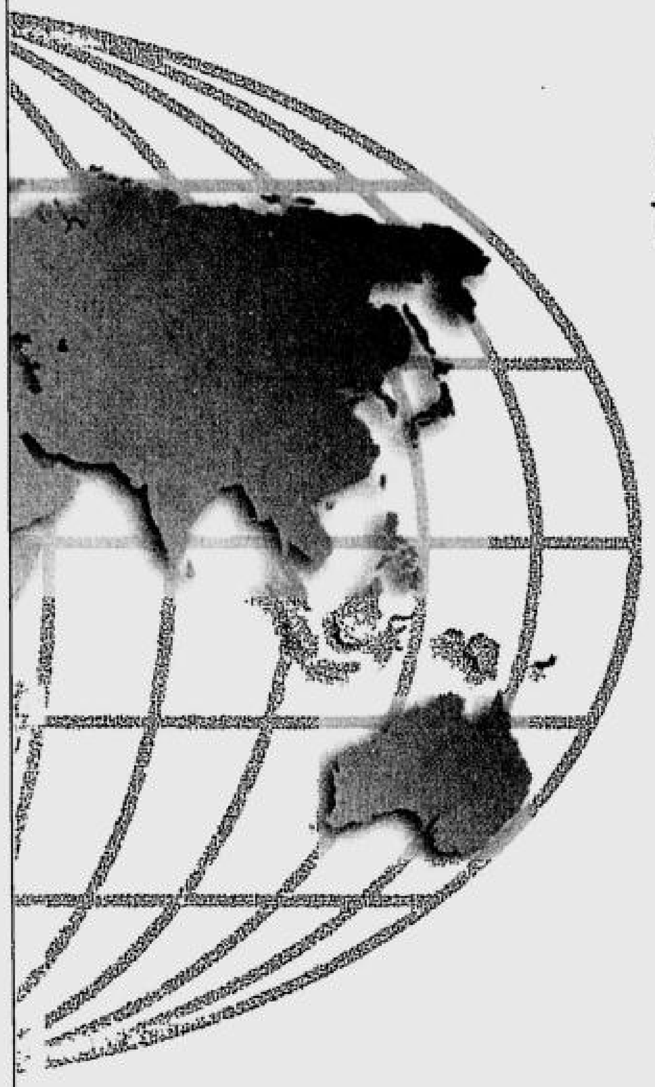

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Metrobank Christmas shopping city opens Nov. 16

GREAT news! The biggest Metrobank Credit Cards' Christmas Bazaar ever will happen on Nov. 16 to 18, 2001 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Le Pavillon, Metropolitan Park, Roxas Boulevard corner Edsa Extension, Pasay City.

Enjoy the following perks while you shop for export quality merchandise all under one roof:

- Cashless shopping via the Metrobank credit or shoppping cards
- Up to 75 percent discount with an option to pay everything on installment at 1.5 percent per month
- Hourly raffle prizes to be won
- Free 9-point car checkup at Toyota Manila Bay, Toyota Cubao, and Toyota Marikina
- Free blood pressure checkup, sugar counting and blood counting courtesy of Manila Doctors Hospital
- Free 1-month personal accident cover worth P100,000 from Philippine AXA Life Insurance
- With big parking area, free of charge

See you there!

A salute . . .

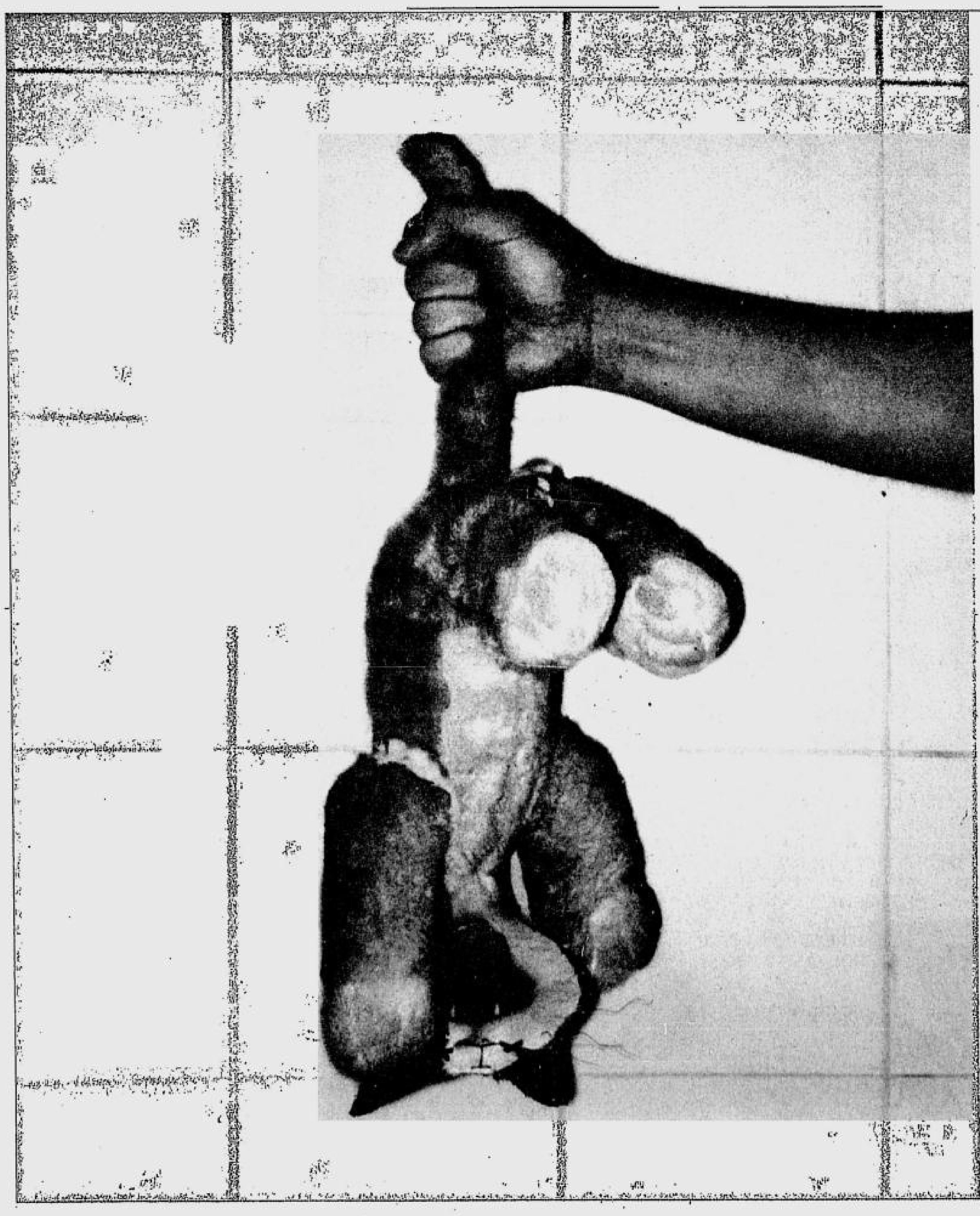
(From page C4)

Philippine AXA Life 15 years ago. She is sales underwriter and she finds fulfillment in selling life insurance. This stems from the immeasurable benefit that life insurance can provide to individuals and families she is able to serve.

Benito Chan is a branch manager of Metropolitan Life based in Philippine AXA Life's Binondo Sales Office. In his long years of service, he was able to produce some of the top agents of the company. Philippine AXA Life is proud to have Mr. Chan for 15 years now.

Rhonda Rey is a sales underwriter of Golden Life, a branch based in Binondo Sales Office. Ms Rey's 15 years of commitment to her craft feels that the business of life is the most gratifying career for security and peace of mind it brings to Filipino families.

Mabini Fajardo Sr. is the top branch manager of the company for many years. Such commendable feat has brought him to the Hall of Fame. Despite such achievement, he is not ready to hang his gloves and he promises to hold on to his title for many years to come. He attributes his 10 years of success with Philippine AXA Life to his philosophy of "Start a little earlier, work a little harder and stay a little later."



HERE'S ANOTHER COPYCAT.
WHERE'S MY AWARD?

Like most of today's award-winning ads, this one looks familiar. It has a big picture, a visual pun, a small headline and a tiny logo of a not-so-well-known advertiser. You can even smell the foul odor of plagiarism.

It's a sad fact that award-winning ads worldwide are beginning to look the same. Distinct brand personalities and differentiating propositions have all but disappeared. Visual punning has become so abused, you can no longer tell who copied whom and what copied what.

Has the world finally witnessed the death of new ideas?

More than anything, we need cutting-edge work that breaks the traditional format and brings fresh insight to the ad industry. Award-winning ads inspired by the creative brief. Not by some award annuals. Ads built on sound strategies. Not on the trendy tastes of the judges. Ads that satisfy the needs of real clients. Not just our hunger for trophies. Public service ads with an honest concern for the public. Not just a public display of cleverness. Ads that improve our creative profiles. And our clients' bottomlines as well.

Of course, it's easier to win by cheating. But we can't fool ourselves with empty victories.

It's about time we left the dirty game to politics.

We need to set a good example to the young generation of creatives. If we don't do something, these kids will all be blinded by scam ads. Copycats will continue to breed copycats. And pretty soon, the whole industry will go to the dogs.

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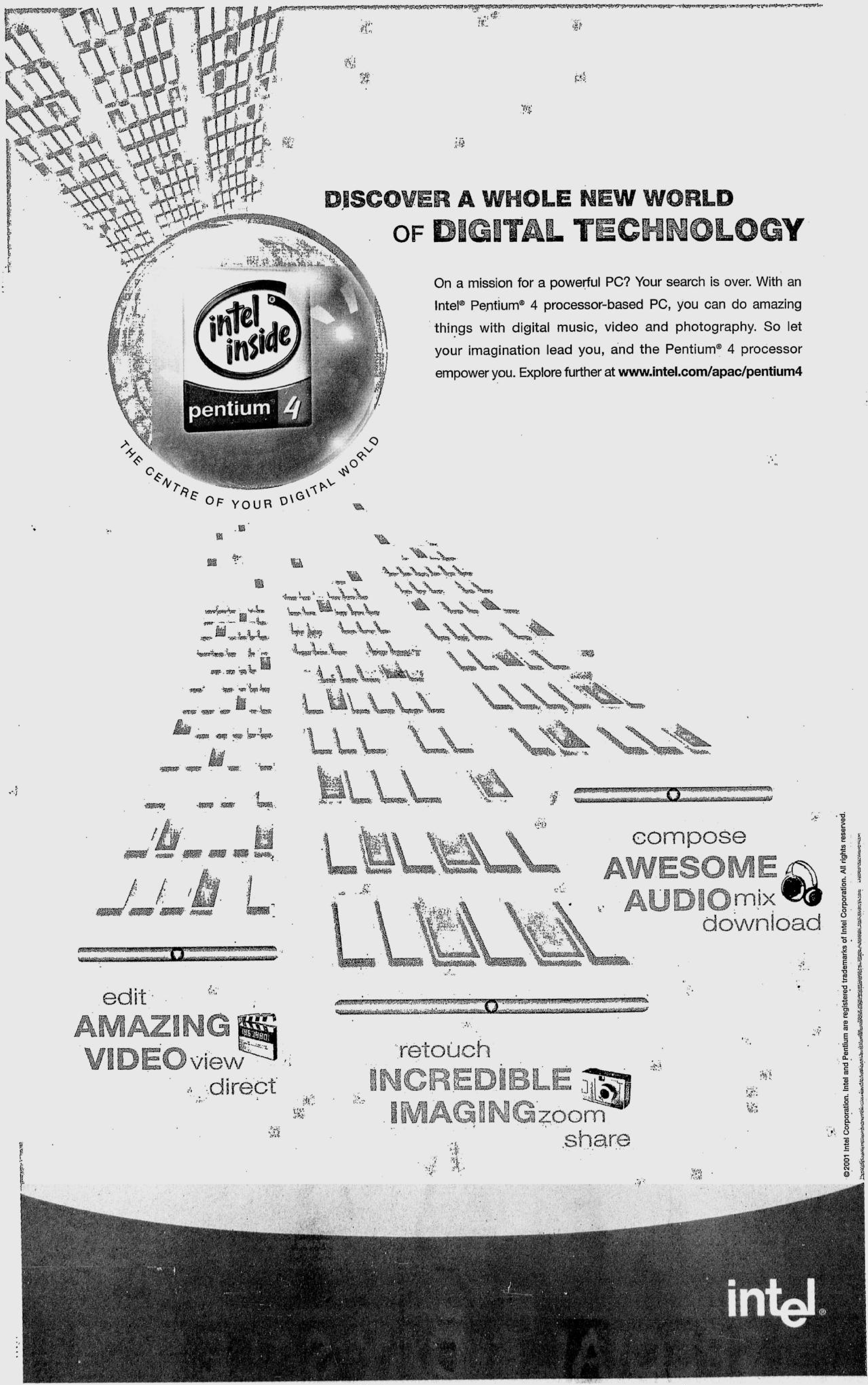

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OCTOBER 26, 20

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LIFESTYLE

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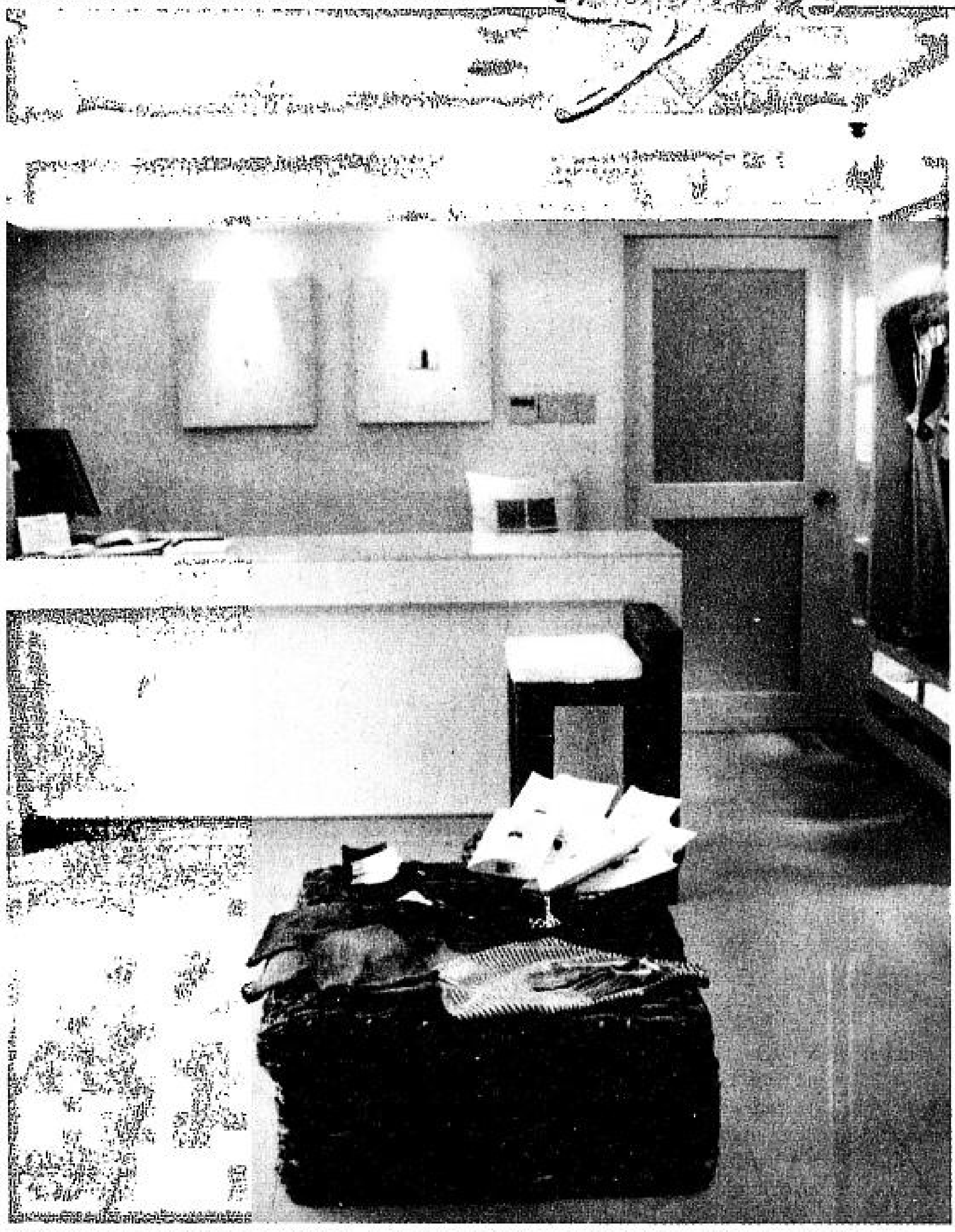
The allure of Rosaria

Story on page D4



ZEN interiors of Itsie-Bitsie store, featuring Milo Naval's chair, on Rosaria Apartment

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Every P1,000 purchase entitles you to one raffle number. The more you shop, the more chances of winning! Hurry -- promo runs from October 15, 2001 to January 6, 2002 only. See posters and flyers for details.
150 YEARS
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3356 Series of 2001

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Folded, hung and worn

Colors and prints form a smashing combination

By Camille Cruz

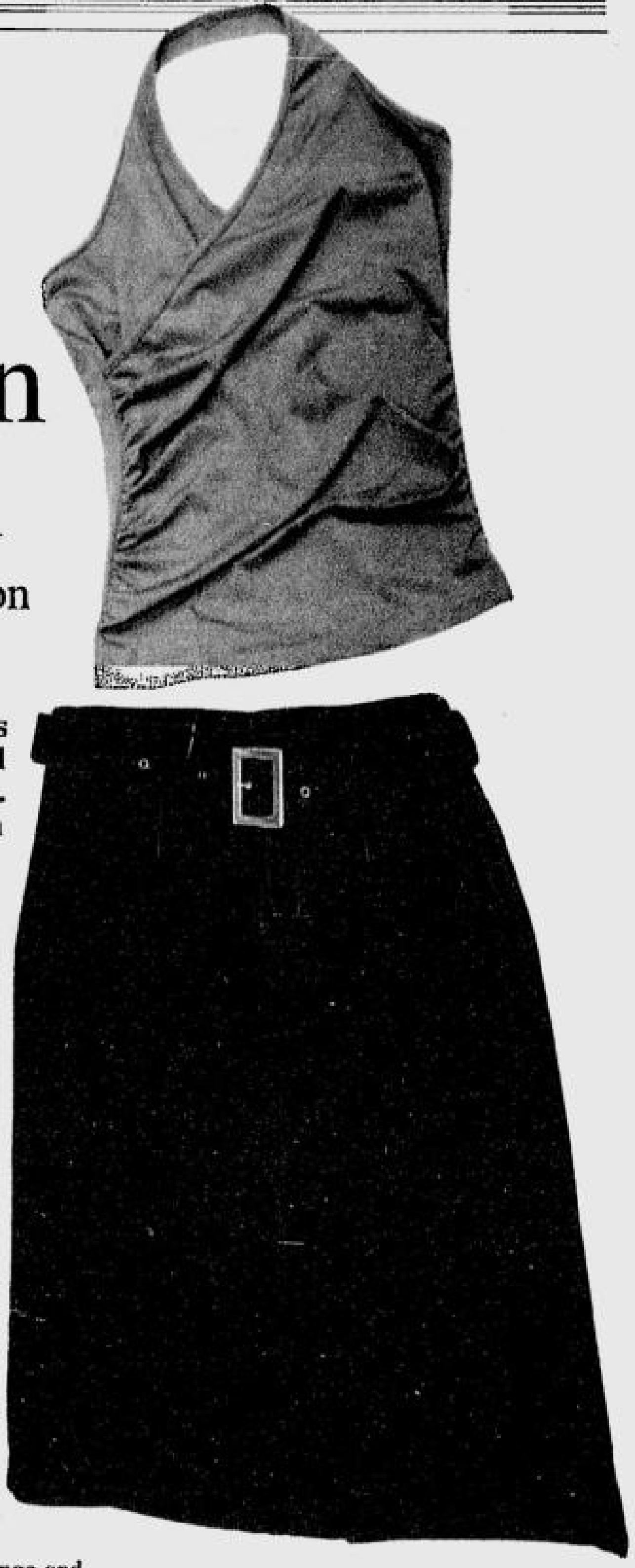
HEARING tandem names in world fashion retail yields a certain effect. Struan & Tang sounds modern and foreign; Dolce & Gabbana sounds mysterious and progressive; H&M sounds young and hip; and F and H sounds, well, Folded and Hung.

Expensive from the outside but affordable on the inside, F and H has its merchandise folded and hung all right. Here you can find your favorite trendy dark denims accompanied by a striped canvas belt and simple silver buckle, or geometrically printed knee-length sleeveless dress perfect for a casual night out. Menswear is also available here.

There's the slight presence of visual merchandising here. Prints are a dominant sight. There are red, brown, white, orange and green in the mixed prints; there are a few shades of green; and there's a touch of camel. Bold in color and contrast, the reds and camels are an eye-catching ensemble.

Not seen too often is the mix of orange and camel. It is a warm ensemble. Red, combined with camel, is also safe and has a mix of cool and warm tones. Camel can also be paired with black denim since it has a rich contrast of nearly extreme shades. It brings out ease with a little touch of a dressed-up look with black denim. This is also nice on tanned skin.

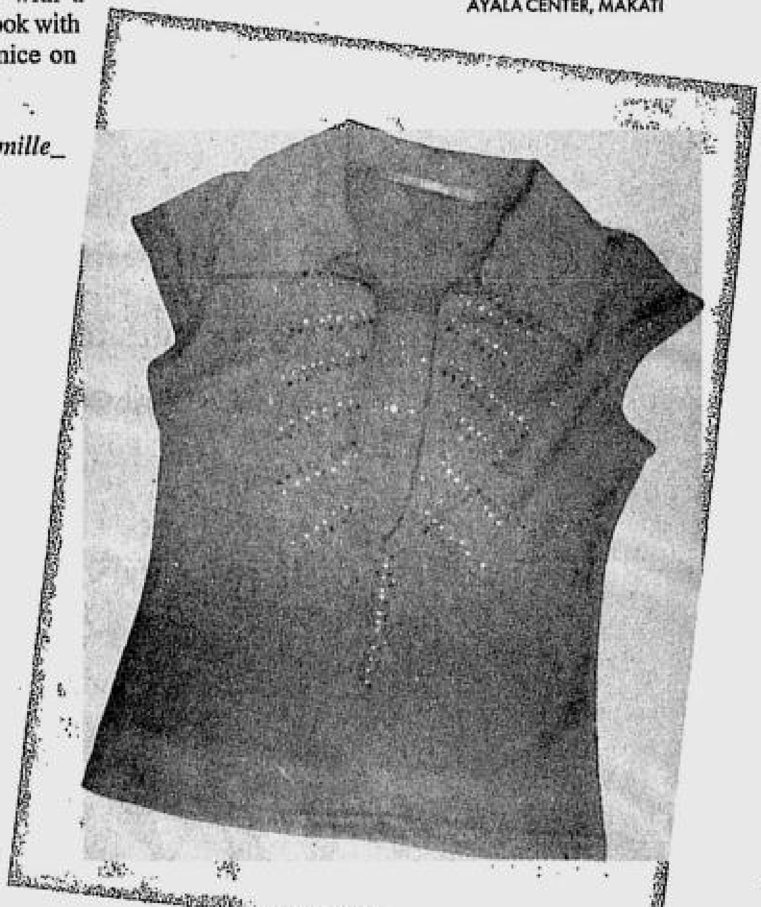
E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com



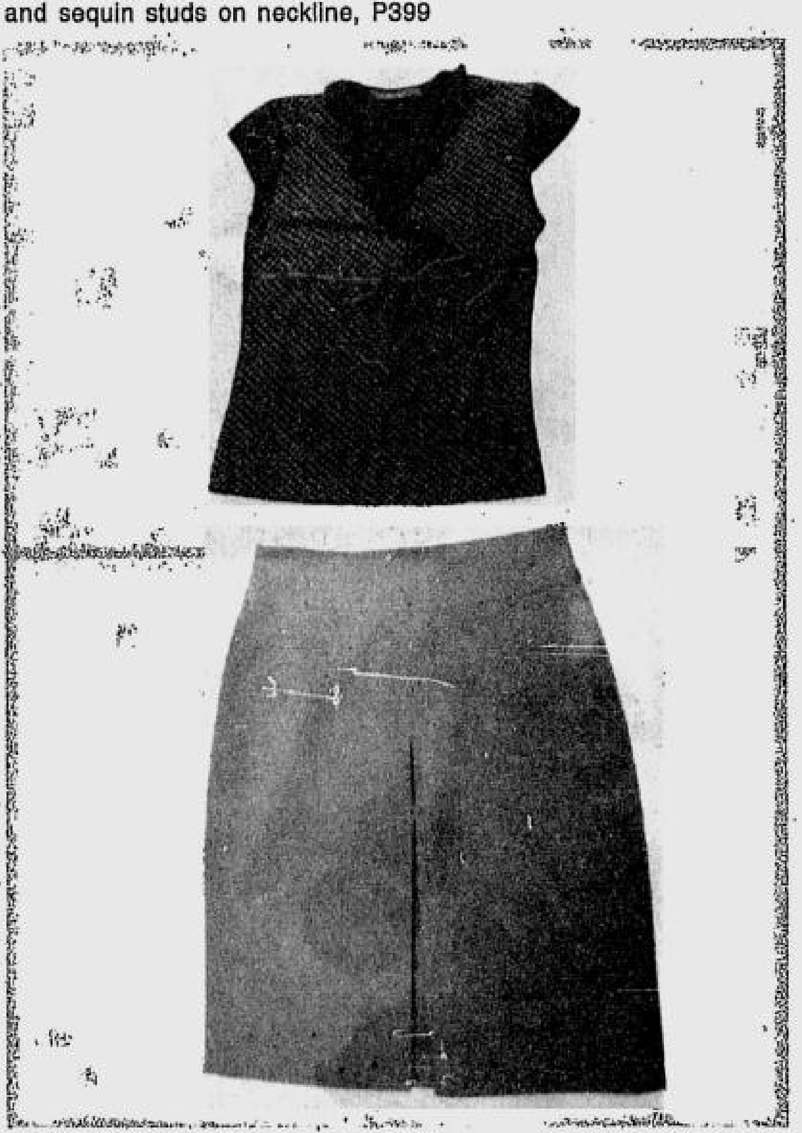
CAMEL halter top, P349; black denim skirt with belt, P799

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO
DIGITAL ENHANCEMENT BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

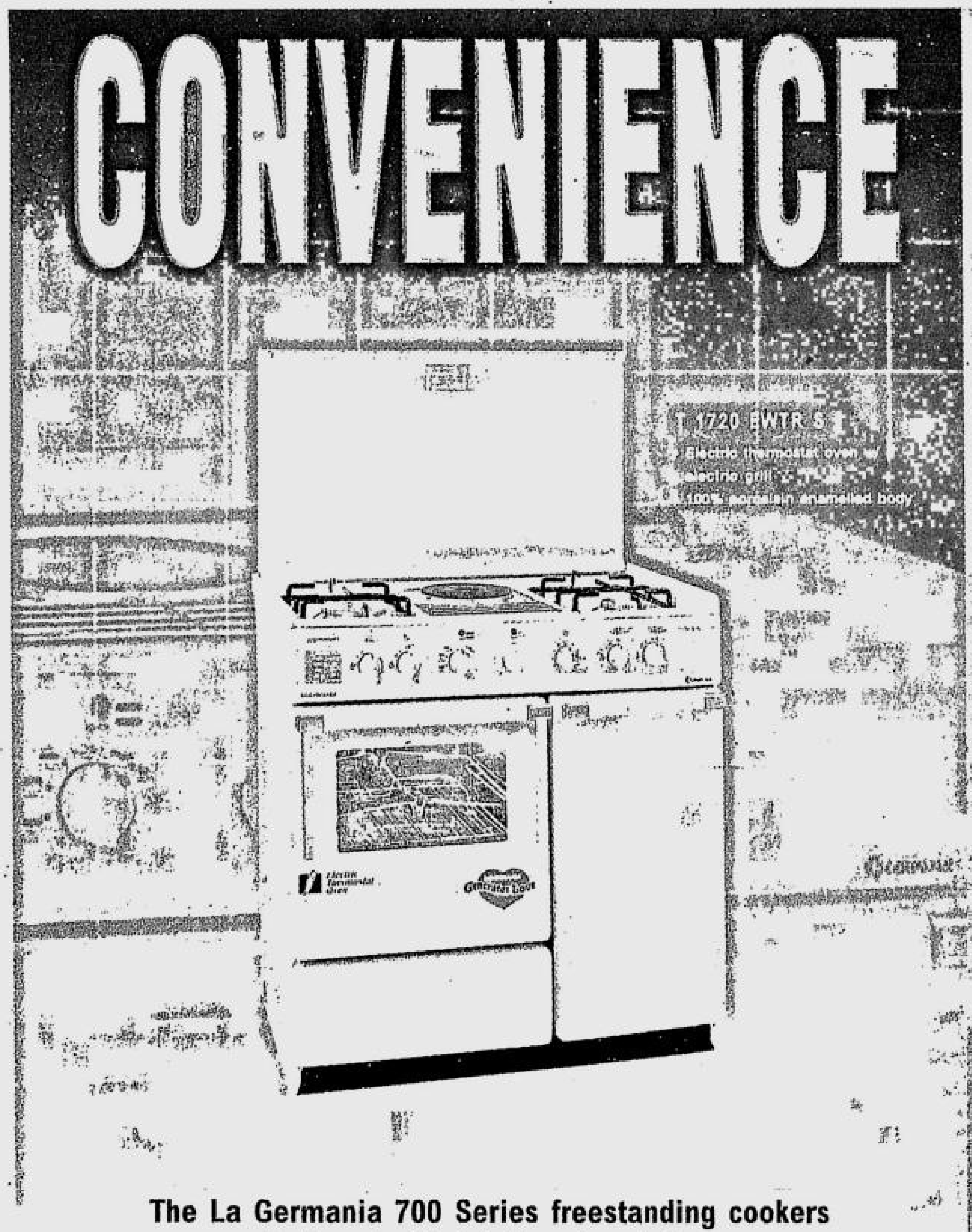
ALL ITEMS FROM F AND H, G/F GLORIETTA II,
AYALA CENTER, MAKATI



RED V-neck top with cap sleeves and sequin studs on neckline, P399



RED printed sleeveless V-neck top with lace and ruffles, P349; camel knee-length skirt with front slit, P499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Electric thermostat oven w/ electric grill
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- 100% porcelain enamelled body

720 WR
- 1 turbo, 1 large, and 2 medium gas top burners w/ electronic ignition
- 1 (180mm) fast heat hotplate w/ pilot light indicator
- Gas thermostat oven w/ gas grill
- 100% porcelain enamelled body

700 WR
- 1 turbo, 1 large and 2 medium gas top burners w/ electronic ignition
- Gas thermostat oven w/ gas grill
- 100% porcelain enamelled body

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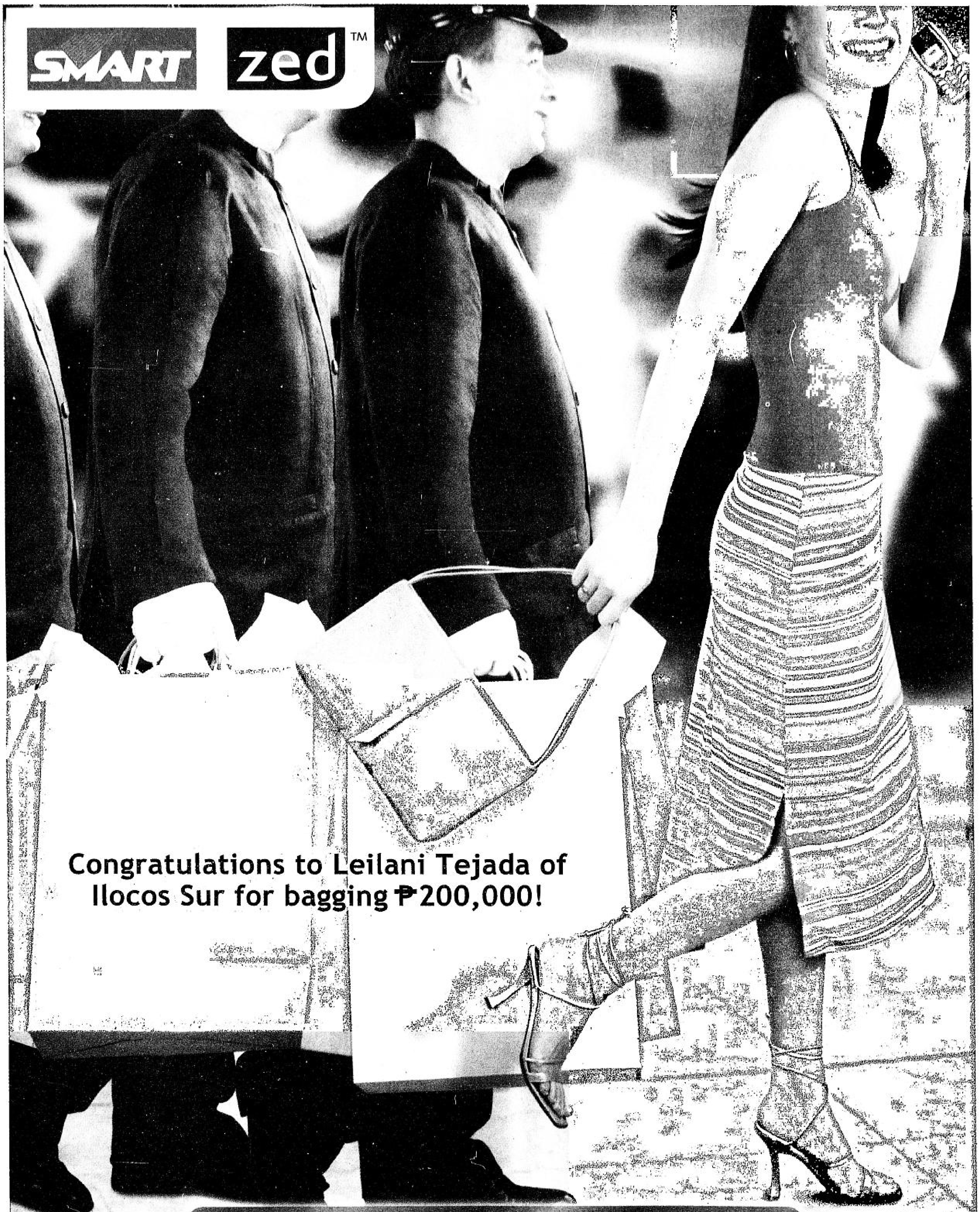


Congratulations to Leilani Tejada of Ilocos Sur for bagging ₱200,000!

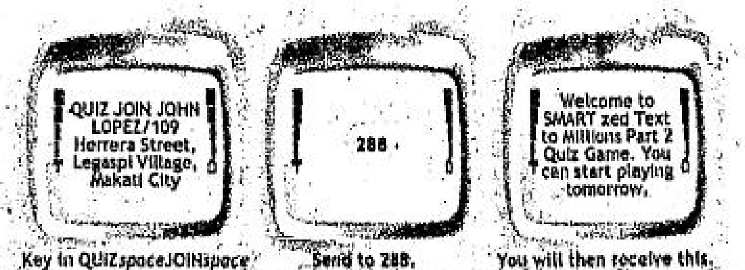
The biggest text-based quiz game is now even bigger! Join SMART zed

Text to Milli,000,000ns! PART 2

Quiz Game

The biggest text-based quiz game is getting even bigger. Now, you can win weekly prizes of ₱100,000. Plus, there's still ₱2,000,000 at stake in the November 12 Grand Draw. So if you want to bag it, just keep texting in your correct answers.

Week 4 winner	₱75,000.00	Noel de Leon of Caloocan City
Week 5 winner	₱75,000.00	Glorabel Imperial of Naga City
Week 6 winner	₱75,000.00	Earl Richardson Chua of Parañaque City



QUIZ JOIN JOHN LOPEZ/109 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City

Key in QUIZspaceJOINspace <name>/<address>

288

Send to 288.

Welcome to SMART zed Text to Millions Part 2 Quiz Game. You can start playing tomorrow.

You will then receive this.

SMART

Simply Amazing!

This promo is available to [illegible]

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The allure of Rosaria

The grand old lady has been transformed for a hip generation. And by the way, want to know what Vogue's Anna Wintour did in the week of terror in NY?

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

I HAD an agenda when I took Ayala Corp.'s **Berry Marfori's** invite to lunch with design entrepreneur **Ines Delgado**—I wanted to see the apartment building where Ines and her family live.

The Rosaria Apartment is a landmark in Malate, and a precious achievement in this day when you have a Manila mayor who'd sell out every historic building and open space if he could. The Rosaria Apartment is known to people, not by name, but by sight. It is the imposing dark orange house on Adriatico—an odd-man-out amid the modern or slapdash façades in the area. The fact that it's hidden behind a high concrete fence and lush trees makes you all the more curious to see it. People have always wondered how old world-grand the house must be like.

I'd visited it twice or thrice—its tenant, but not the owner's apartment, which is on the topmost floor. So when Berry asked me over to meet Ines, I grabbed the chance.

Joining us for lunch were **Sonia Ner** who heads Asia Society where Ines works, **Monique Trinidad Toda** who's married to **Bengy**, the well-known photographer and owner of Studio 58. Bengy is the son of **Rosemarie Tuason** and **Benigno Toda**. Rosemarie's grandfather, Dr. **Manuel Tuason**, had the apartment built in 1936 by an American architect.

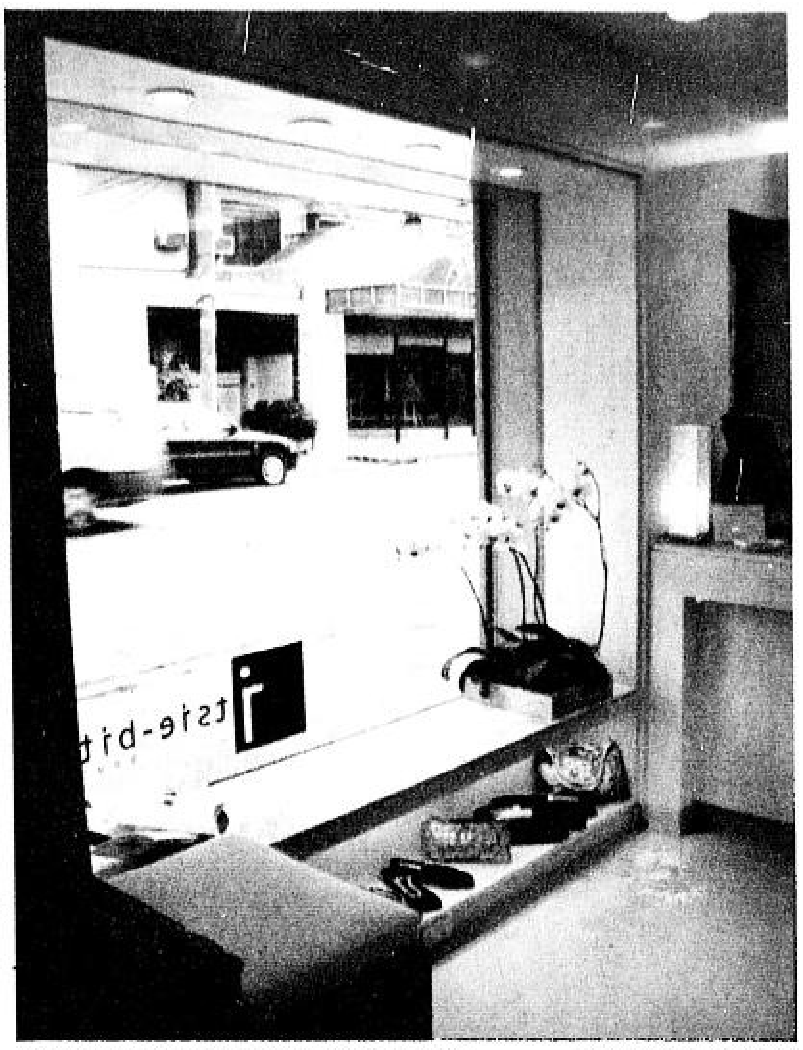
Rosemarie has two children—Bengy and **Rosros**, who's Ines' mom. Since Rosemarie died in the early '90s, Rosros has looked after the apartment—with a passion.

This apartment building is one of the few prewar structures remaining in Manila. It lives because it's privately owned; if it were public property, it would have been bulldozed a long time ago. That it not only survives, but in fact has become more beautiful through the decades, is due to the fact that Rosros and her family care for it deeply. Rosros considers its maintenance and continued improvement as her full-time job.

It is as it was in the '30s, with a few extensions and changes to the inner structures. The foyer rolling out from the curving driveway has the big slabs of tile flooring you hardly see these days. To reach the topmost apartment, we took the elevator, the oldest unit of Otis elevator in Asia, according to Rosros, so that every time Otis officials visit Manila, they drop by the Rosaria Apartment to show off this historic product to their executives.

The Delgado family's apartment reminds you of a cozy apartment in New York or London. It has an old-world charm, with its soft warm lighting, neat clusters of classic furniture, and accents such as art objects, antiques, Orientalia and other precious possessions that Rosros and husband **Franco Delgado** have kept through the years, including a framed fan from **Indonesia**, which the man of the house gave his wife-to-be during courtship.

Sonia was right when she said the visual attraction was the winding staircase you saw as you entered the apartment. Designed by Rosros herself, it has wide wood planks, graceful wrought-iron balustrade winding up to the dining room upstairs.



VIEW of Malate from the store window

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION
BY ALBERT AVELLANA

On the apartment's topmost floor, the dining room opens onto a balcony that overlooks Malate—we'd never seen the Malate skyline from such a vantage view.

Ines said her mom was always constructing one thing or another in the building—like an unfinished work of art. The building grew up with the generation of Ines' grandparents, and grew old gracefully with Ines' and her siblings' generation.

Perhaps because of its many transformations it never ceases to be a point of wonder for Metro Manilans, particularly for the Malate denizens who try their best to keep the quaintness of this part of Manila.

The Rosaria Apartment is open only to its tenants and their select visitors. Last week, however, its door was kept a bit ajar, so to speak, because Ines opened an interesting boutique right at the front.

Called Itsie-Bitsie, it sells one-of-a-kind swimwear, separates, dresses and fashion accessories from Australia. Ines isn't schooled in fashion or merchandising. She's an art history graduate of Colorado College who lived in London and New York before coming home. She worked at Christie's New York where she was exposed to costumes.

What should make her boutique different?

We think it's her taste. Ines is a perky pretty woman who talks with a passion—about art, Asia Society, fashion, retail or what her mom has done at Rosaria Apartment. She wants to give the young market access to clothes that are somehow different from the tees, jeans, spaghetti-strap tops that have been the uniform look for eons now. Her source—Australia, with its new aggressive breed of cutting-edge designers—is largely untapped by Manila. She carries hip Australian labels such as Sass and Bide, which is the favorite of **Sarah Jessica Parker** for jeans, Zimmerman, Tigerlily, Lisa Ho, Rebecca Davies, Bettina Liano, Kitten.

She's also chosen swimwear designs that are alluringly feminine, not non-gender sporty.

She's making her prices affordable and her fashion accessories, including tote bags, are not of the usual kind in the market.

She's after the market of twentysomething women—her age—who want to go beyond the usual safe clothes, and who'll make the trip to Malate to get them.

"I like it that there are more creative and quaint stores in Malate," Ines said.

With Ines' latest venture, the Rosaria Apartment enters yet another phase in its life, like a grand old lady connecting to the hip generation.

Anna Wintour and terror

WANT to know what fashion icon (or tyrant, depends on where you sit) and Vogue editor **Anna Wintour** did in the Sept. 11 week of terror in New York?

Here's an account from New York magazine (Sept. 24 issue) about Thursday, after the Tuesday attack: "Around 11:30 a.m., rumors spread that there's a bomb in the Conde Nast (publisher of Vogue) building in Times Square. People mill about outside, but no one seems particularly scared. Anna Wintour walks east on 43rd Street with André Leon Talley, chatting on her cell phone. 'Nothing happened,' she says. 'It was a bomb scare.' When a passerby asks if they're leaving because of the threat, Wintour looks at her as if she's crazy. 'No, we're going for lunch.' "

There's a massive magazine literature on the Sept. 11 attack, from Time to People and, believe it or not, I still lap it up—even now that the US is turning from victim to villain. What I found particularly engrossing because it ran accounts and insights on New Yorkers themselves, thus bringing us to Ground Zero itself and the lives and careers shattered by it, was New York magazine.

Wall Street banker **James J. Cramer** wrote a reportage/essay, which began: "These are my guys they killed. My buddies who work downtown—next to me…

"When the first plane hit, I counted down the floors and said, 'That's Cantor Fitz.' When the second smashed through, I knew it was Morgan Stanley Asset Management, Keefe Bruyette, Sandler O'Neill. These were folks who had covered me, folks I had interviewed on CNBC…"

He had a most foreboding ending: "… The day before the attack, Tom Clarke, the CEO at TheStreet.com, was bemoaning the perpetual red ink on our screens, and he asked, 'Jim, this is the worst market I have ever seen. What can turn it around?' I looked at him, knowing my market history, and said simply, 'War'…

"For now, though, I just wish we were back with that same old horrible market we had on Sept. 10, that miserable market where only stocks, not friends, floated down into oblivion."

Well, the US got its war all right.

Wack-Wack night life

I NEVER thought there could be a night life in a residential enclave like Wack-Wack, but it looks like there's one shaping up. The Plaza's **Millie Reyes** is back on high gear and has taken over the banquet and restaurant of the newly built Wack-Wack Clubhouse, which looks grand, by the way.

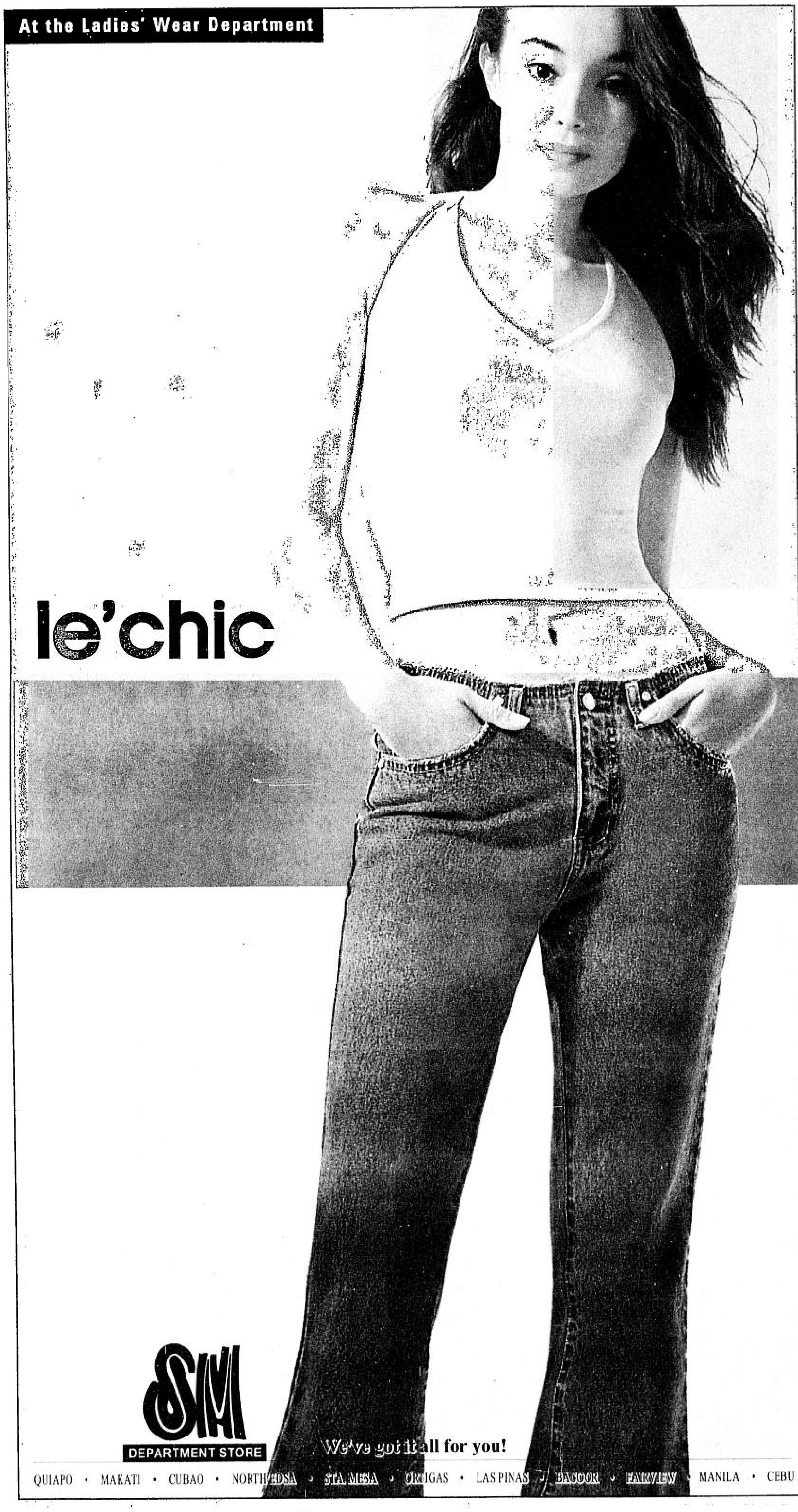
ANDRÉ Leon Talley with Anna Wintour

Millie's calling it Cocktail Lounge and it serves the classics The Plaza has become known for—it's to-die-for ham and turkey. Plus—there's Dr. **Larry Millari** who plays the piano on Wednesdays, sings anything from standards to ballads to jazz, and accompanies any guest who's in the mood to capture an audience. Larry is a dentist.

That Wednesday holding us hostage were **Behn Cervantes** and **Anton Juan** who didn't need much cajoling to sing. And sang they did, good enough to help us wind down. Behn did "As Time Goes By," among our favorite others, and Anton, "Moon River" and "Autumn Leaves" in French. Joining them were **Bonjin Bolinao**, **Annie Ringor** and later, **Celine Cristobal**.

Behn and Anton, by the way, are cooking up something for theater in February.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net



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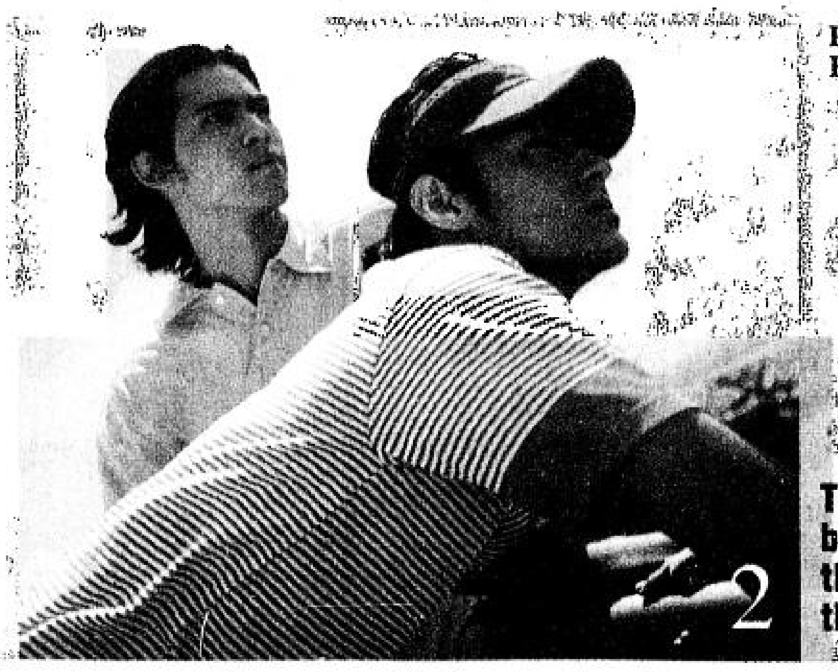
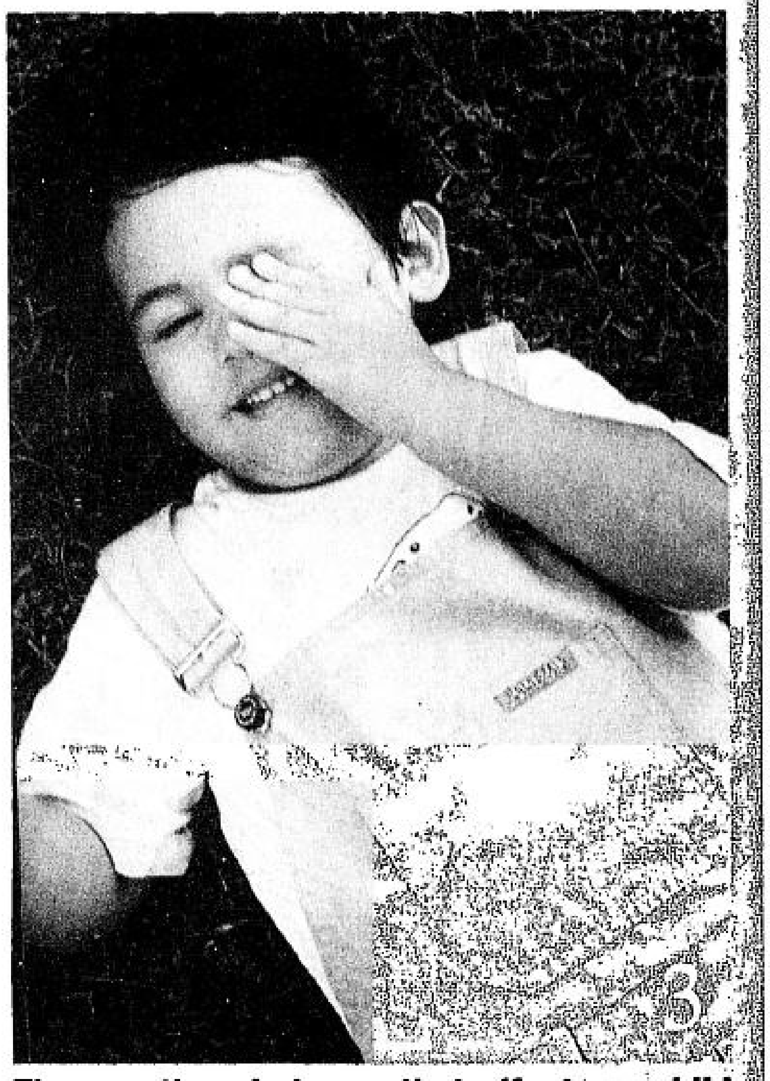
Fantastic journey

PHOTOS BY
RAYMOND LAUCHENGCO



This marks the beginning of a journey through our lives and the lives of others.

Life is like an inward journey. It can be set anytime once we chart a destination.



The growth and change that affect any child who passes through adolescence and into adulthood are nothing compared with the evolution to internal maturity.

FANTASTIC/p.D6

Visit Corregidor on a shoestring budget

VISIT Corregidor Island for P500/person only. This includes round-trip ticket on a fast ferryboat, admission fee, loop tour service (with tour guide), use of South Beach facilities (beach, picnic shed, comfort/dining/bathrooms, open shower). The Light and Sound Show at the Malinta Tunnel is optional (P100/person.) The trip schedules are Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

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Under Sun Cruises Inc.—single/twin occupancy, P1,800/room/night; extra bed, P550/person/night; hostel, 20 capacity (minimum of 10), P400/person/night.

For guests with camping gears/tents, they will have to pay P30/person/day.

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planet love TOUCH DOWN

Tokyo knows it all too well. The pulsating beats, the visual overload, the heat of gyrating bodies, the smell of adrenaline and euphoria. On 31 October 2001, Joey@92.3 makes club history by bringing Tokyo's premiere party brand to Manila for a howling All Hallow's Eve Costume Party. Expect to be taken on a journey through the dark beats of progressive house through the banging hard house into the party of the year. PLANET LOVE @ THE TENT.

(RESIDENT DJ)
DJ JOHN ROBINSON

At the core of Planet Love pulses the progressive house, trance and hard-house mixes of this preeminent spin doctor. John Robinson has evolved into the Asian region's most sought-after DJ with a remarkable following in Australia and the US. If Tokyo is any indication, he should take Manila clubbing to another level when he lands.

DJ KOUTAROU (JAPAN)

DJ, producer and remixer extraordinaire, DJ Koutarou Adachi's cutting-edge music and style has traveled all over the world and invaded the prime party places of Asia and the Western Hemisphere including New York superclub Twilo. Thrill-seekers should brace for the ultimate techno-funk experience at the hands of this seasoned professional.

VJ TURU (VISUAL GRAPHICS MASTER)

Visual Jockey TURU

The purveyor of "Visual Dreamscapes", VJ Turu's computer wizardry produces constantly evolving images that are utterly breath-taking. His live visual work will grace the landscapes of Planet Love for a club encounter to remember.

DJ BOBET VILLALUZ

Seveneightorange kicks it every night, thanks to this spinmeister's wicked workings at the turntable. Watch him mix up a storm with Asia's best as he dishes out his unique brand of tribal house, trance and techno.

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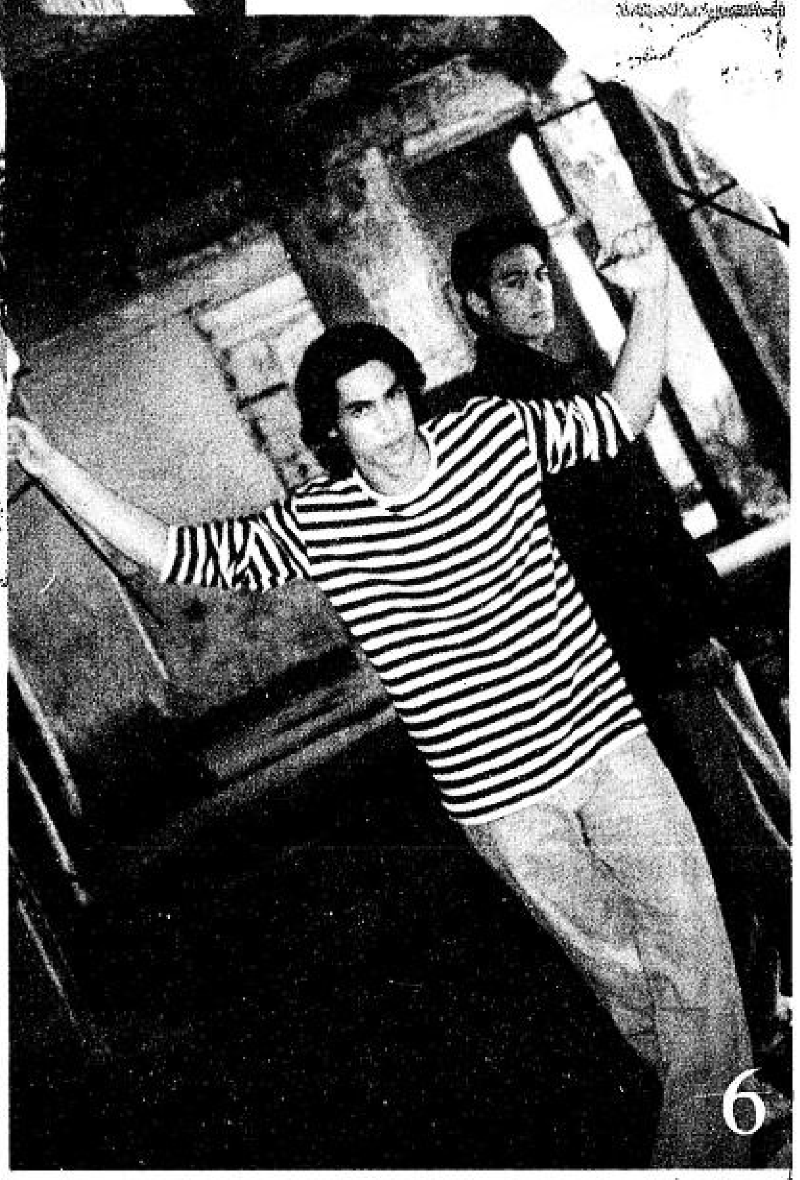
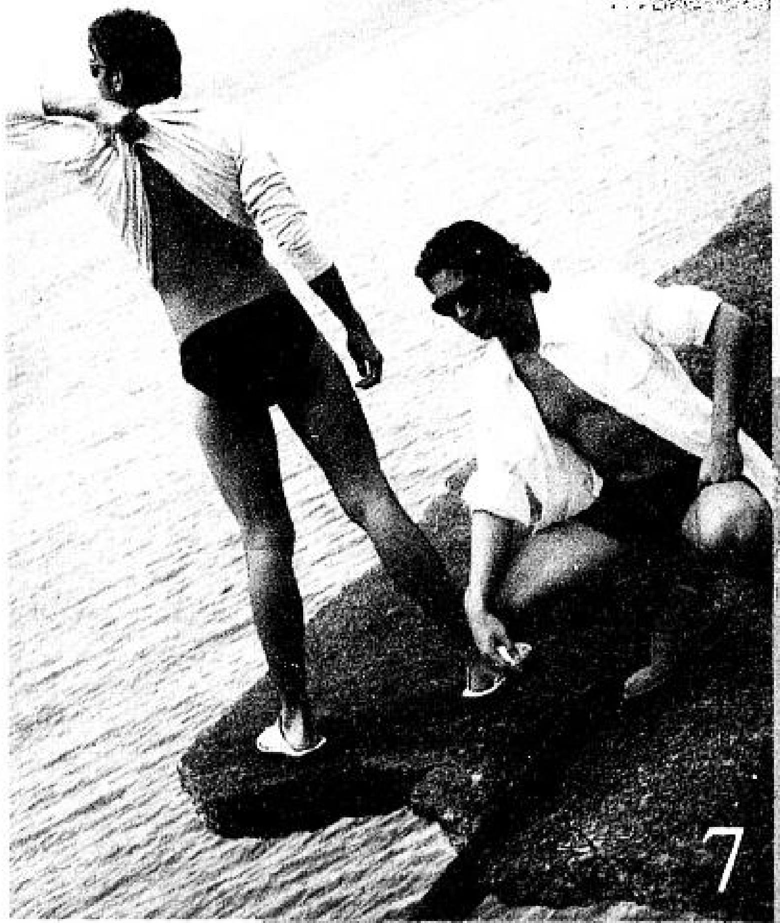


It's more to do with being than doing . . .

Fantastic journey

(From page D5)

All travels lead inward, through strange terrain of self-knowledge



Staying than going . . .

. . . As the discoveries we need to make are only a second away.

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Cosmetics directors awarded

MARY Kay's three sales directors were recently awarded during the World Wide Women Winning seminar. They were Charlotte Mendoza of Zamboanga City, Rebecca Mills of Tagaytay City and Geraldine Mendoza of Davao City. At the seminar to be held today and tomorrow at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Mary Kay will launch its Trophy on Wheels, an award for the best sales directors, and Queen's Court, which will be given to the best performers in personal sales, recruiting and unit sales.

The Queen's Court achievers will receive diamond rings and diamond bumble bee pins and Tag Heuer watches for their spouses.

THE CHAMPIONS with Filcoop officials

2002 hair trends showcased

NEW hair trends, cuts, styles products and equipment for 2002 were presented at the recent Hairdressers' Day, an annual event organized by the Filipino Hairdressers Cooperative (Filhair Coop).

The event, held at the Manila Midtown Hotel, gathered about 5,000 participants from all over the country. Ruth Guingona, wife of Vice President Teofisto Guingona, and Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia, graced the opening of the event.

Winners in various competitions were:

Overall champion—Ricky Cristobal; commercial creative colors—Jeffrey Guro, champion; Enji Dobluis, first runner-up; Ness Adriatico, second runner-up; Joey Sadsad, third runner-up; and Philip Yalong, Pablo Joy Cereza, Benjie Galinó, Francisca Oragan, Bong Gandawali, honorable mention; wedge ladies cut and blow—Edward Doblado, champion; Arnold Flores, first runner-up; Rizalina Galarosa, second runner-up; Elmer Respecio, third runner-up; and Reggie de la Cruz, Larry Medina, Dante Pogonia, Reynaldo Manuel, Antonio Escanas, honorable mention;

Modern teenagers men's cut and blow—Marvin Habla, champion; Joey Cervantes, first runner-up; Al-Raffy Jaiyari, second runner-up; Raul Mardoquio, third runner-up; and Bobby Fernandez, Monette Suarez, William Joseph Rulloda, Aiby Andsak, Oskee Cabeltis, honorable mention;

Evening party makeup—Roy Aliangan, champion; Ricky Cristobal, first runner-up; Jorge Acosta, second runner-up; Kei Pagtakhan, third runner-up; and First Hofilena, Bong Acosta, Eddie Canale, Stiffany Ilagan, Philip Yalong, honorable mention.

Avant-garde color—Ricky Cristobal, champion; Engi Dobluis, first runner-up; Babette Sanchez, second runner-up; Marvin Habla, third runner-up; and Cyrelle Peralta, Ardy Becera, Reggie de la Cruz, Edward Doblado, Monette Suarez, honorable mention.

Fabulous grandma styling—Kei Pagtakhan, champion; Lovely de Leon, first runner-up; Marvin Habla, second runner-up; Jimmy Calapati, third runner-up; and Bong Acosta, Oyen Pulido, William Joseph Rulloda, Jay de Villa, Willy Delgado, honorable mention.

KOU Haku Itoh demonstrates a makeover using T'estimo makeup.

Go for the gold

ANGELICA Colmenares sports the gold look. Her outfit is by Igancio Loyola.

KANEBO launched its T'estimo line of products from Japan.

The pastel colors in shimmery and light textures are inspired inspired by the effects of light on water.

The T'estimo line includes Rouge de Rouge lipsticks that use Aqua Veil to hold in moisture while providing soft, gentle color; Rouge de Essence for a glossy finish and Rouge de Clear for elegant matte lips, the liquid eye shadow called Aqua Framing Eyes and the powder selection of Color Eyes. Shimmery pastel pink, sky blue, lavender and mint green hues dominate the selection. The biggest thrill of this makeup line is the natural way it glitters when applied because pure gold flakes are mixed in with the colors.

Japan's top makeup artist, Kou Haku Itoh, demonstrated ways with the new makeup look. Kanebo has a beauty vision machine can easily test the moisture and sebum levels of the skin. Kanebo has several skincare and beauty products available such as Blanchir Faircrea whitening products, Freya skin care products, Revue basic care products, Exercise body care products, Anima hair-care products and An Deux Mille fragrance products. They also have the Sensai Ex Limited Edition product which includes La Creme, La Lotion and L'Emulsion.

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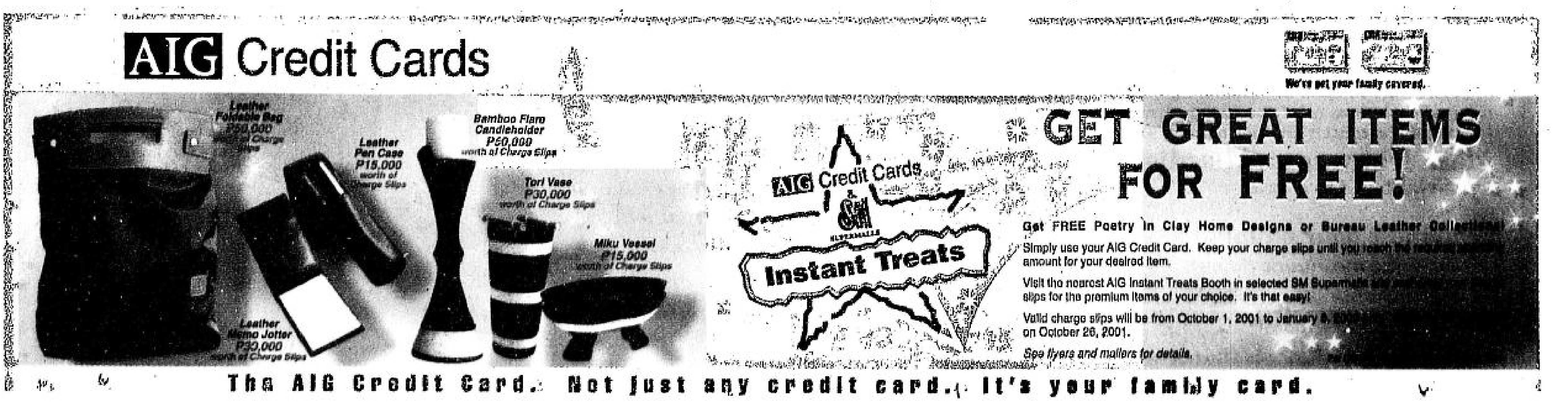
* Based on recently available industry data and actual Mary Kay sales.



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Get streetsmart

LEE'S streetwise clothing suits people who can parade around in them with funk and soul. Think cool and eye-catching shorts and skirts and the ever-present denim jeans that are enzyme-washed and distressed to the limits. These bottoms are matched with what should be the most bravura brief things this side of sultry attitude: heart-stopping shirts, sizzling bra tops that bare the back, sexy halters, and other little outré blouses and midriff-baring tops in provocative colors of red, orange and green, and splashy symbols such as the boldly emblazoned Lee logo. Stiletto heels complete the picture. The brand has created a look that proudly screams its slogan: "Fit In, Stand Out."

MODEL Charise Arayi wears this hip pair of Lee tattered jeans. The halter shows off her washboard abs.

Have fun with the mini–but be careful

THE MINI is not the only hemline of the season. In the '70s, even Barbara Walters had to wear a mini on-air because it was the only length in stores, but this time around, it's just a fun option, primarily for those who never wore it before or those who want to shake things up—think Sarah Jessica Parker in her Calvin Klein mini at the Oscars.

The new mini, too, wants to be respectable. Rich menswear fabrics—pinstripes, tweeds, corduroys as well as suedes, leather and tartan plaids—make it far less cheesy than the pink metallic lame and faux animal prints we used to wear.

The mini looks classy with what you pair with it. When you're exposing so much leg, you want to keep your top covered up. Minis look best with a longsleeved cowl neck or high-neck sweater. And, the mini is sexy enough, so keep your stockings quiet—opt for bare legs, nude stockings or opaque tights instead of fishnets—and your heels conservative.

For work

Try the Ally McBeal-style suit from Express, but we recommend it only for women in creative fields—law is not one of them. It's a gray pinstripe that looks conservative, but up close you see that there's a silver stripe running through the stretch fabric. The two-button jacket, the miniskirt and the blue button-down shirt, with a placket covering the buttons. You can make this look as office-like as possible with nude legs and pumps.

Casual Friday

On a movie date, a pink corduroy mini is sweetly sexy. Tone down the mini with a classic button-down shirt. No hose and simple, flat, ballet slippers look great. The message would be sweet schoolgirl if you wear this mini with a plunging top and high-heeled boots.

The pleated kilt is the hottest style in minis, also worn by Madonna on her current tour. This one comes with a skinny belt by United Colors of Benetton. Keep your top zipped up in a ribbed cotton turtleneck.

For weekends

For running around town, just pair an Old Navy denim mini with an orange turtleneck. Try a low-casual shoes—not stilettos! This look is an inexpensive way to invest in this trend.

For a more dressed-up Saturday night date, try a fun, oversized houndstooth mini, with a red polo shirt. Try simple pumps and nude hose.

RED AND RADICAL. Hot red and white striped haltered neck tube top goes perfectly well with a black leather wrap miniskirt and jacket.

CLOTHES FROM SM TEEN DEPARTMENT

For that party

Because it's evening, it's okay to wear gold-heeled sandals.

Check out fashion and beauty editor Charla Krup of InStyle magazine at www.InStyle.com

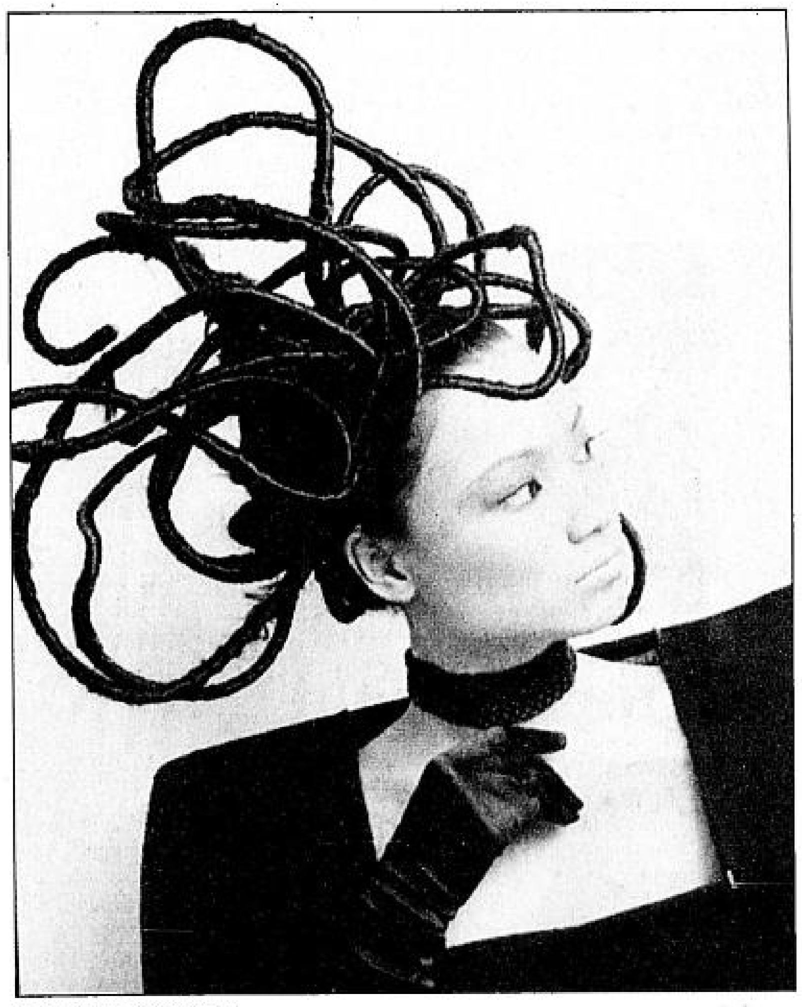
Life on the fast lane with Versace

NO other Italian label quite manipulates design, color and fabric better than the fashion house of Versace. With its latest collection now available at Versace Jeans Couture in Greenbelt and Linea Italia 6750 on Ayala Avenue, the renowned designer espouses a raw-edged fashion lifestyle, conjuring visions of daring men and women racing on their sleek quicksilver motorcycles.

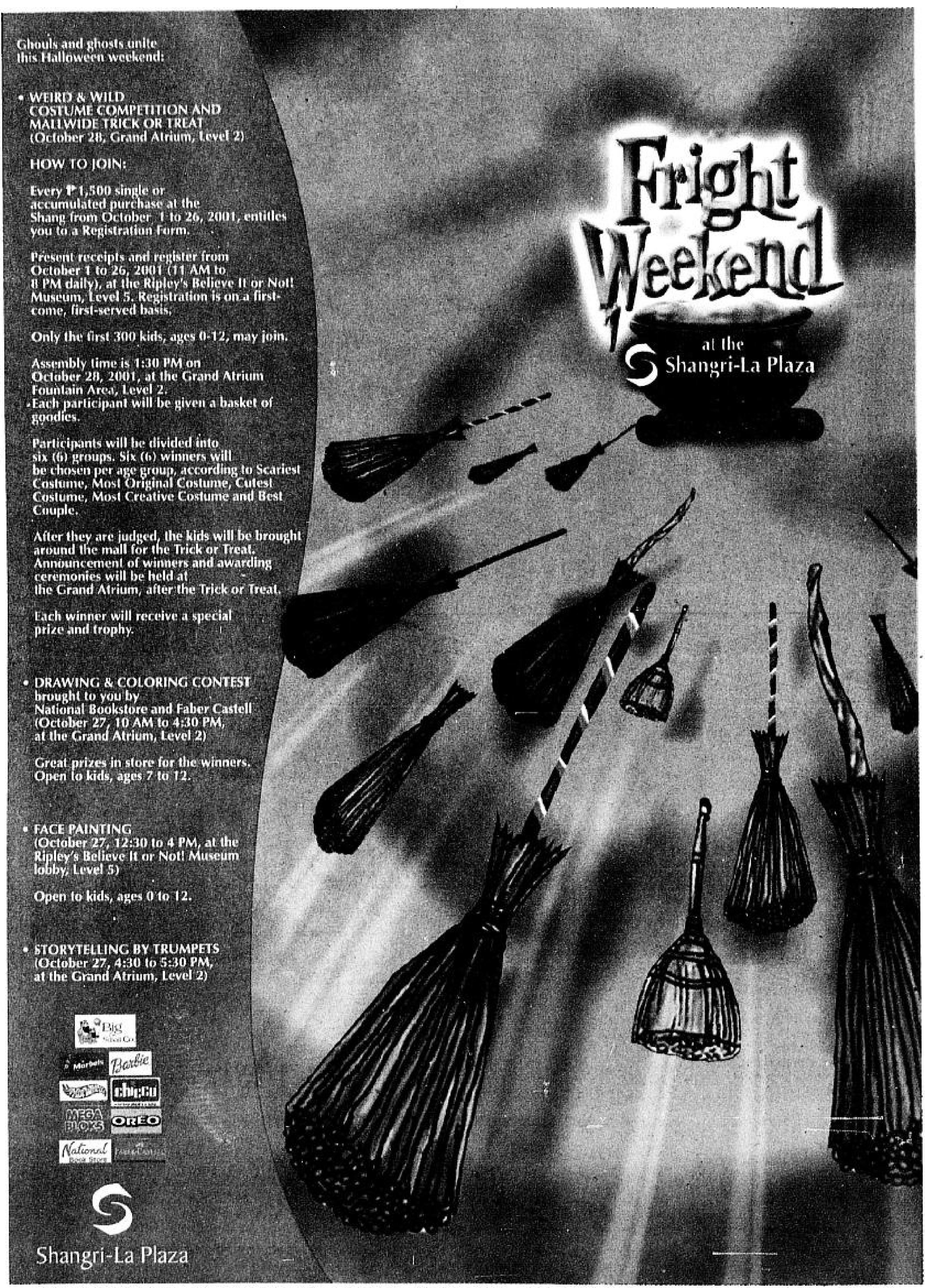
Against an impressive backdrop of Ducati bikes, striking combinations of leather on denim and on sensuous, silky fabric; geometric designs on silhouette-hugging dresses; casual shirts and pants in vibrant green, yellow and orange; tube tops accentuated by chains, all evident in Versace's latest pret-a-porter collection—are powerful statements that life must be lived with intensity, sophistication and sensuality.

Check out Versace's latest collection and Ducati motorcycles at select Linea Italia shops.

ON THE WOMEN: Black top with glass beads paired with printed pants and one-sided top paired with printed skirt and thigh-high slit. On him: polka dot short-sleeved and black pants in mixed material


SURREAL STYLE

Celebrity stylist Angelo Justin of Franck Provost creates a Halloween look for model Ivy Vong. He spun her hair around coils of wire, painted her face in pale foundation and frosted beige lipstick. He revealed that this pictorial was originally made in August for reference photos of a fashion magazine in Hong Kong. Saddled with clients (popularity has a price), he never met the deadline. Nonetheless, the fantasy look was just in time for Halloween.


Ghouls and ghosts unite this Halloween weekend:

- WEIRD & WILD COSTUME COMPETITION AND MALLWIDE TRICK OR TREAT (October 28, Grand Atrium, Level 2)

HOW TO JOIN:

Every ₱1,500 single or accumulated purchase at the Shang from October 1 to 26, 2001, entitles you to a Registration Form.

Present receipts and register from October 1 to 26, 2001 (11 AM to 8 PM daily), at the Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum, Level 5. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Only the first 300 kids, ages 0-12, may join.

Assembly time is 1:30 PM on October 28, 2001, at the Grand Atrium Fountain Area, Level 2.
Each participant will be given a basket of goodies.

Participants will be divided into six (6) groups. Six (6) winners will be chosen per age group, according to Scariest Costume, Most Original Costume, Cutest Costume, Most Creative Costume and Best Couple.

After they are judged, the kids will be brought around the mall for the Trick or Treat. Announcement of winners and awarding ceremonies will be held at the Grand Atrium, after the Trick or Treat.

Each winner will receive a special prize and trophy.

- DRAWING & COLORING CONTEST brought to you by National Bookstore and Faber Castell (October 27, 10 AM to 4:30 PM, at the Grand Atrium, Level 2)

Great prizes in store for the winners. Open to kids, ages 7 to 12.

- FACE PAINTING (October 27, 12:30 to 4 PM, at the Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum lobby, Level 5)

Open to kids, ages 0 to 12.

- STORYTELLING BY TRUMPETS (October 27, 4:30 to 5:30 PM, at the Grand Atrium, Level 2)

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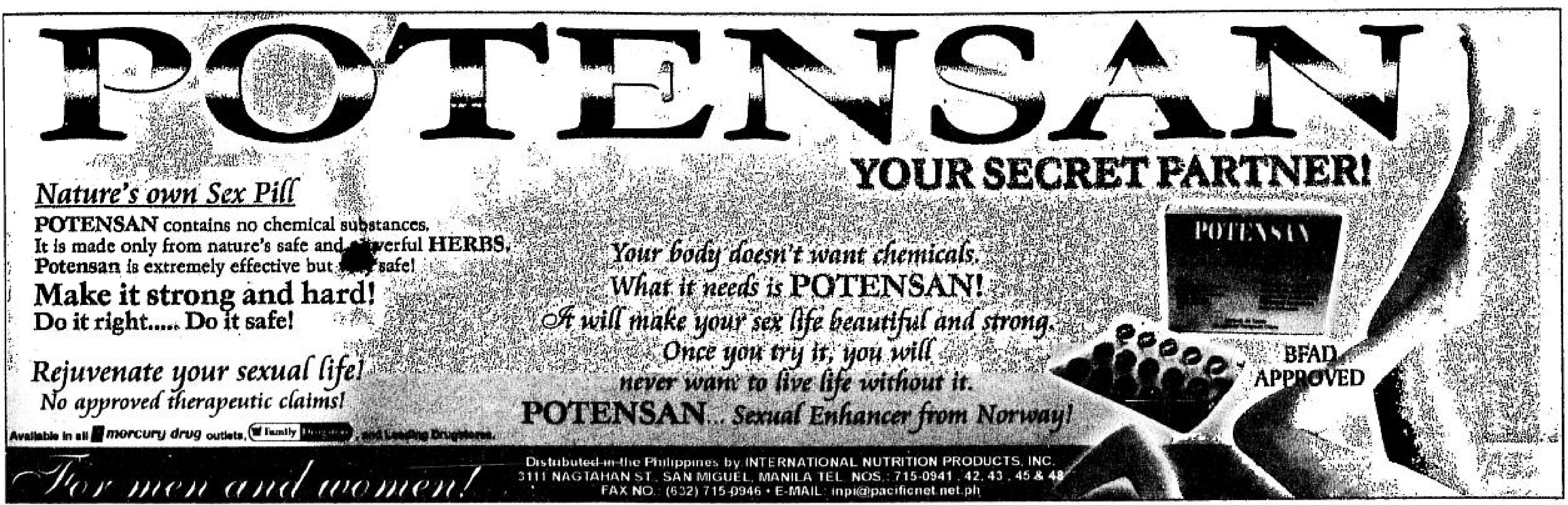
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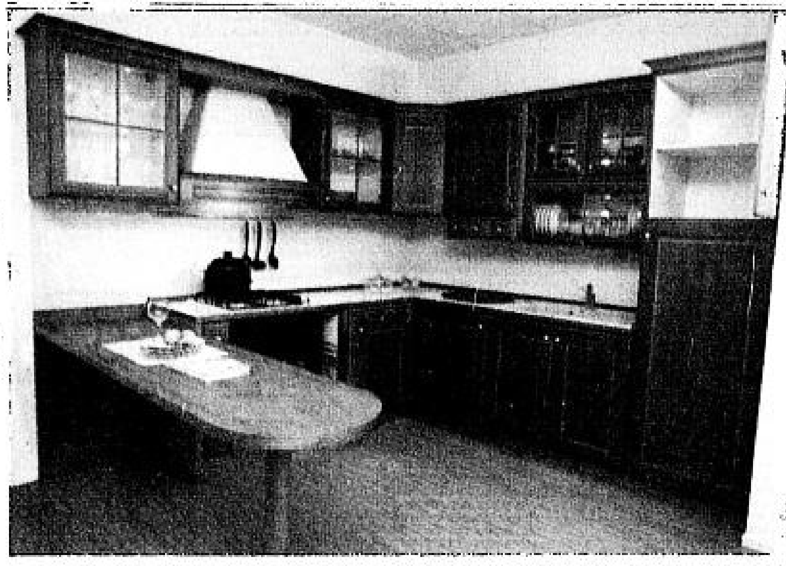
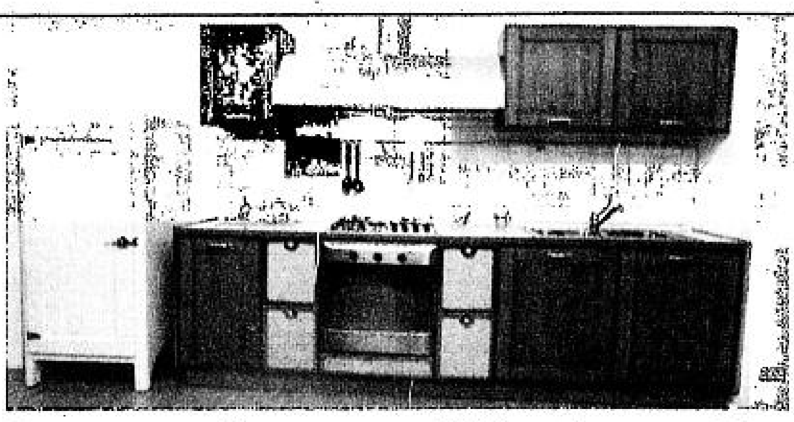


OLD Farm is done mostly in wood giving it a homey look, although all the amenities for high-tech efficiency are present.



DOLCEFORTE combines practical aspects of steel and lacquered woods presenting an appealing combination of past and present.

'Livable' kitchens function efficiently

By Doris G. Nuyda
Photos by Johnny Villena

THE FAMILIAR saying "The kitchen is the hub of the home" is actually a statement of fact for Meson's Cucine, an Italian kitchen module manufacturer.

With its increasing importance for family gatherings and social affairs in modern homes, the kitchen as designed by Meson is made to function efficiently—and with el-

LIVABLE/p.E2

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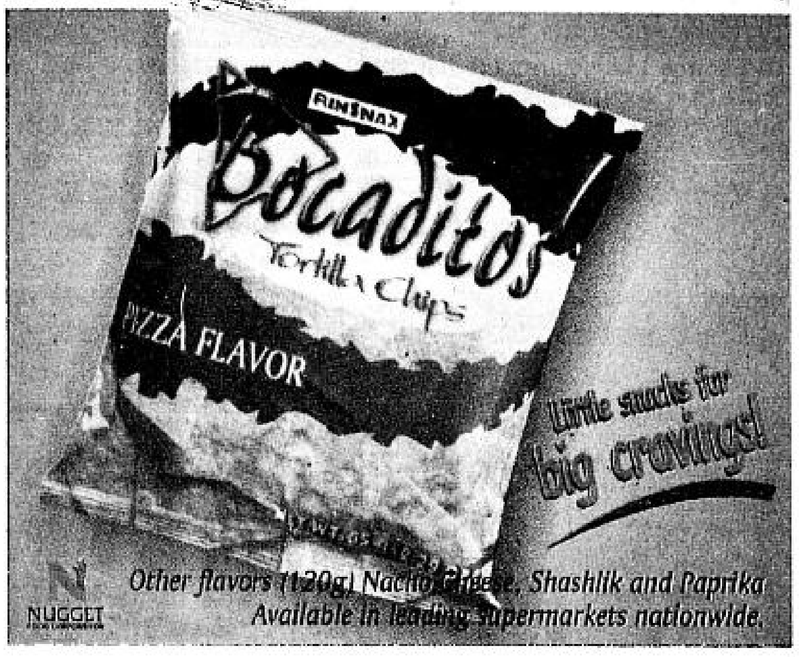

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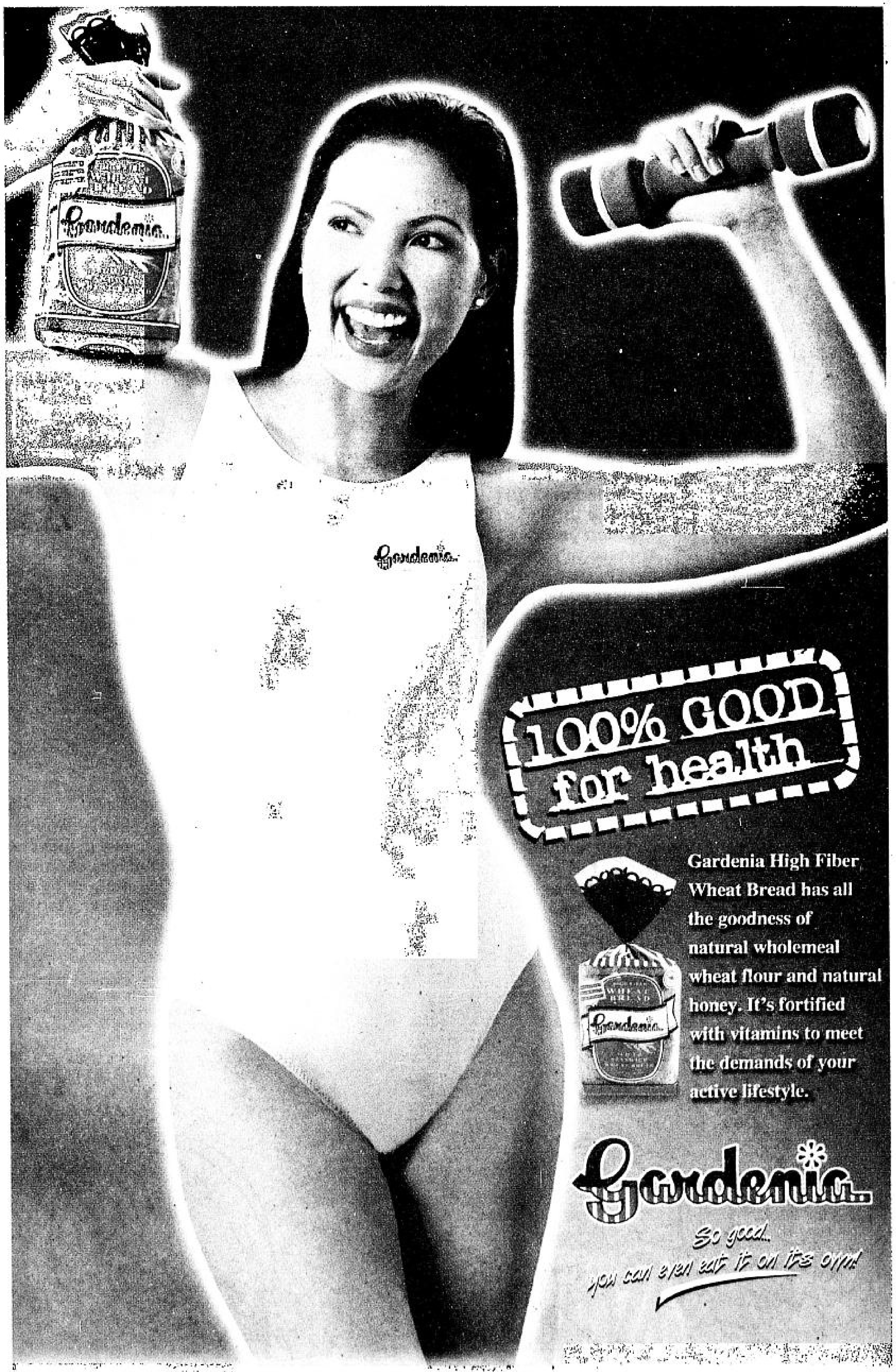

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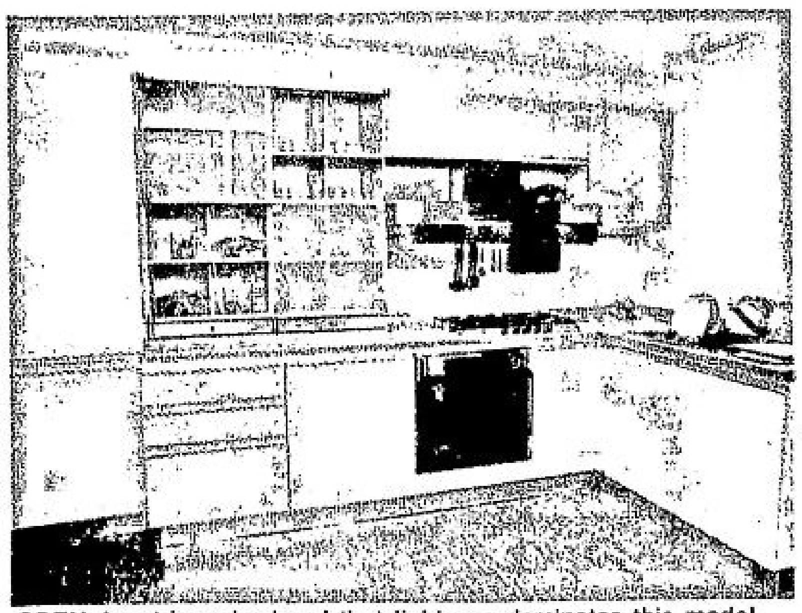
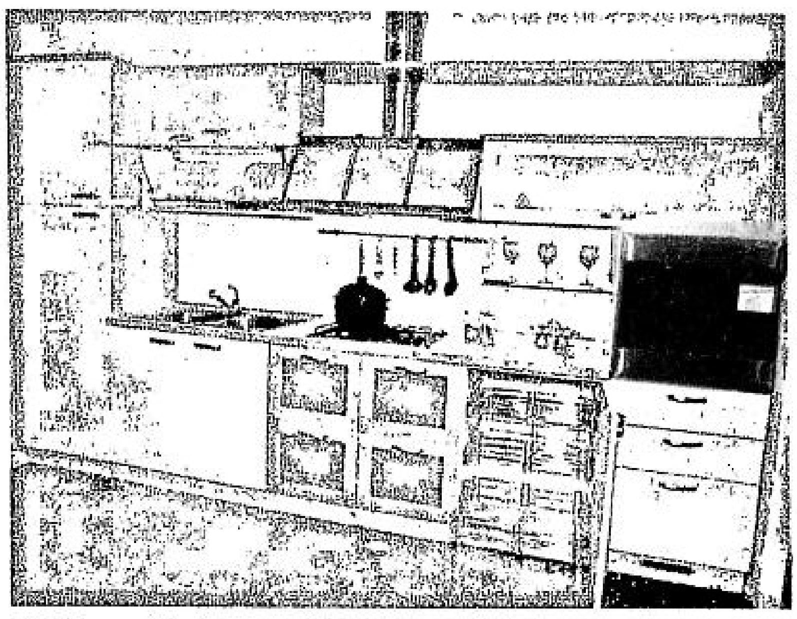


OPEN Age triangular hood that lights up dominates this model. Stove is a cooktop (like all those displayed) with built-in oven, but range types are available.

K99 is easily recognized by the "hidden" lights integrated into stainless steel and opal glass shelves and work areas.



SISCA module features panels over the cooktop stove that actually cover an extraction hood.

'Livable' kitchens function efficiently

(From page E1)

egance. It achieves these qualities through the creativity of its designers and technologists and a deep understanding of what people want in their cooking spaces. As a result, Meson's kitchens have gained recognition as being as "livable" as the living and dining areas in the house.

The company is represented in Manila by its new partner, Dinamica, also its exclusive distributor here, and considered in local circles as the No. 1 dealer in Italian kitchens.

There are kitchens and kitchens, but Meson's models come with assurances of high quality, durability and high-tech efficiency. For this reason, it caters to an upscale market, one that recognizes true value in the long term.

The need to save space is addressed even as ample storage spaces are provided. Careful attention is also given to durability in the use not only of the best materials, like stainless steel and lacquered woods, often in attractive combinations, but also in ensuring that those materials are termite and moisture-resistant. The designs' uncluttered efficiency make cooking and other kitchen chores more pleasures rather than tasks.

Dinamica displays

In Dinamica, there are seven models on display, with names that somehow reveal their styles—Old Farm, Dolceforte, Sisca, Open Age, Grafica, Dinamica (after which the store was named) and K99. For the traditional look, for example, there is Old Farm with its design that enhances old-fashioned wooden kitchens. If the ultramodern look is desired, K99 has futuristic integrated lights and opal glass shelves. For contemporary models, there are Sisca, Grafica and the rest of the modules each with its salient point.

As every style is modular, components may be mixed and matched. Clients are free to select components from other modules, choose the colors and woods they prefer and combine them as they wish, allowing them to create their own kitchens. Meson's believes the client knows better than anyone else what makes kitchen work easier and more pleasant.

Dinamica, for instance, features elegant and rational sliding systems for its doors. Grafica has innovative ergonomic (engineered for human efficiency) handles where top and door trims seem to merge. Open Age sinks have drawers with space-saving flaps that open and shut without making noise.

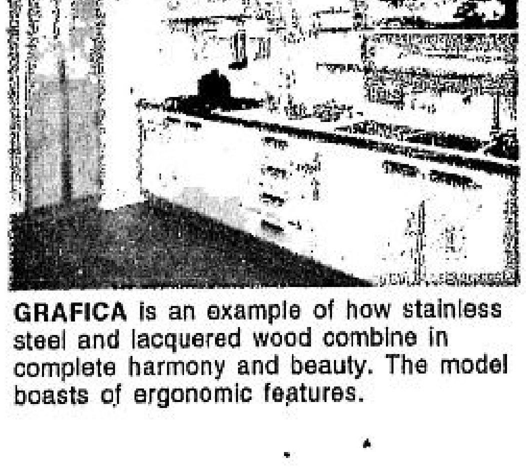
Sisca sports an extraction hood over its stove that has soft, rounded lines. Dolceforte combines steel and lacquered woods in a perfect balance between present and past.

In addition, Meson's manufactures its own hardware so that sink tops, door handles, hinges and other elements used in crafting the modules are not only exclusive, they also increase the kitchen's overall efficiency.

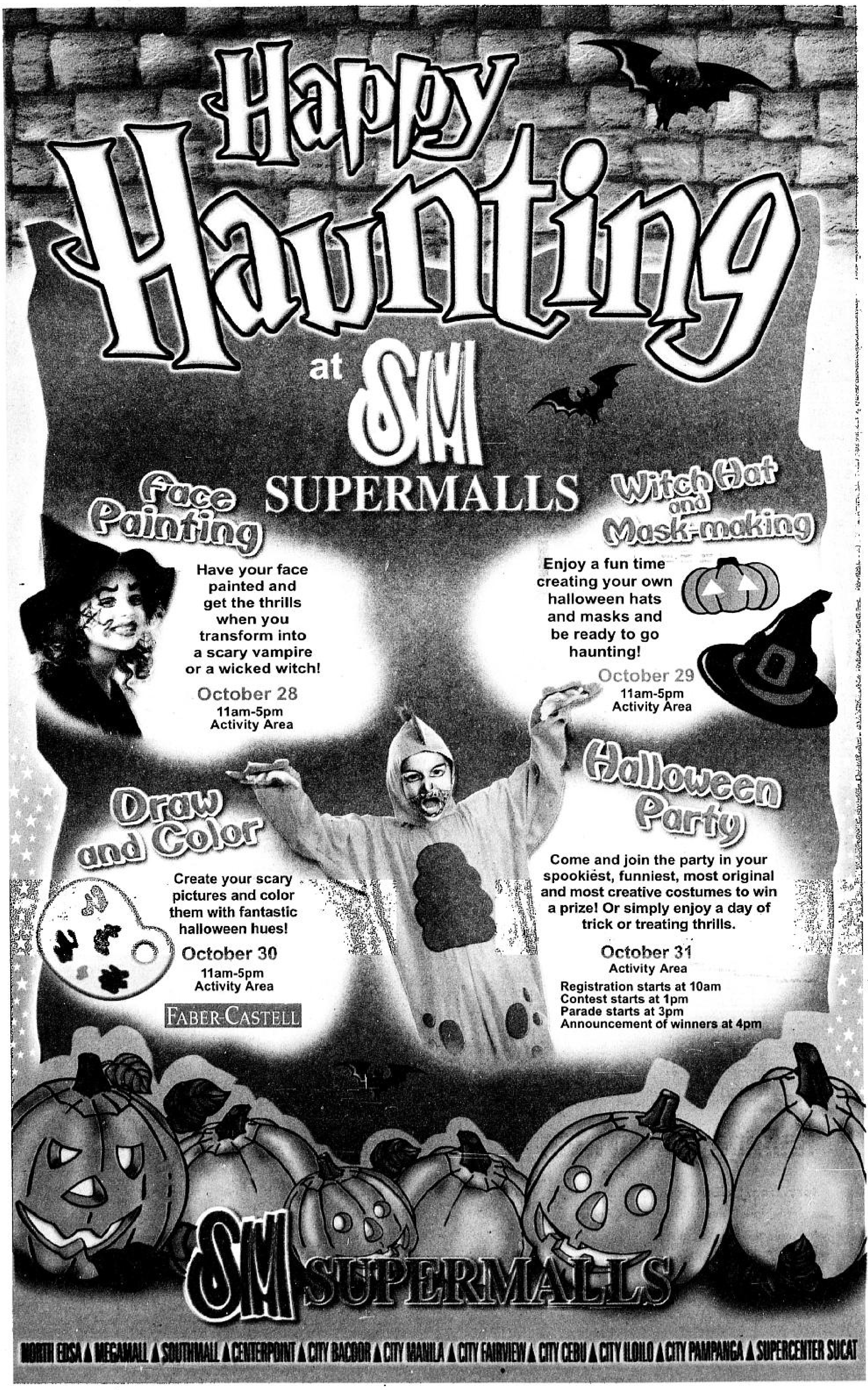
Dinamica, the store, has an in-house designer, Jo Jimenez, to assist in the styling needs of clients. As Meson's new partners in Manila, it stresses that everything it sells is exclusively from the Italian firm and 100-percent Italian.

Dinamica is located at the 4/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

DINAMICA shows off its handy, elegant and rational sliding systems for doors and shelves.



GRAFICA is an example of how stainless steel and lacquered wood combine in complete harmony and beauty. The model boasts of ergonomic features.



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Come and join the party in your spookiest, funniest, most original and most creative costumes to win a prize! Or simply enjoy a day of trick or treating thrills.
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Registration starts at 10am
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Furniture lines cater to kids and GenY

AREA Home Store, the furnishings and accessories shop that pioneered the lifestyle concept in home retail in the country, now offers new product lines at its flagship store at R2/L Power Plant, Rockwell Center.

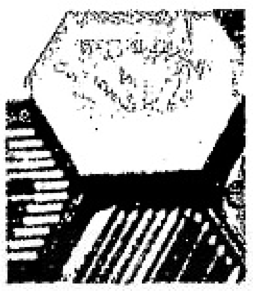
Among the new things are the Area Kids line, for people starting families; GenY, a brand of accessories and gadgets that are cool, colorful, functional and futuristic; and Relaxers, a line of products for relaxation like aromatherapy candles and scented oils, incense, spa necessities and the like.

The hardware section features items like towel bars and curtain rods, door knobs, cabinet door and drawer pulls. The lighting section has lamps from different designers.

The store's line of linens reflect the best taste and quality.

Area Home Store also has people to decorate homes and condominium units for clients. Wilma Santos-Huang said, "You could say we give free interior design services, using items from Area Home Store. Just give us your budget."

The store also accepts orders from interior designers.



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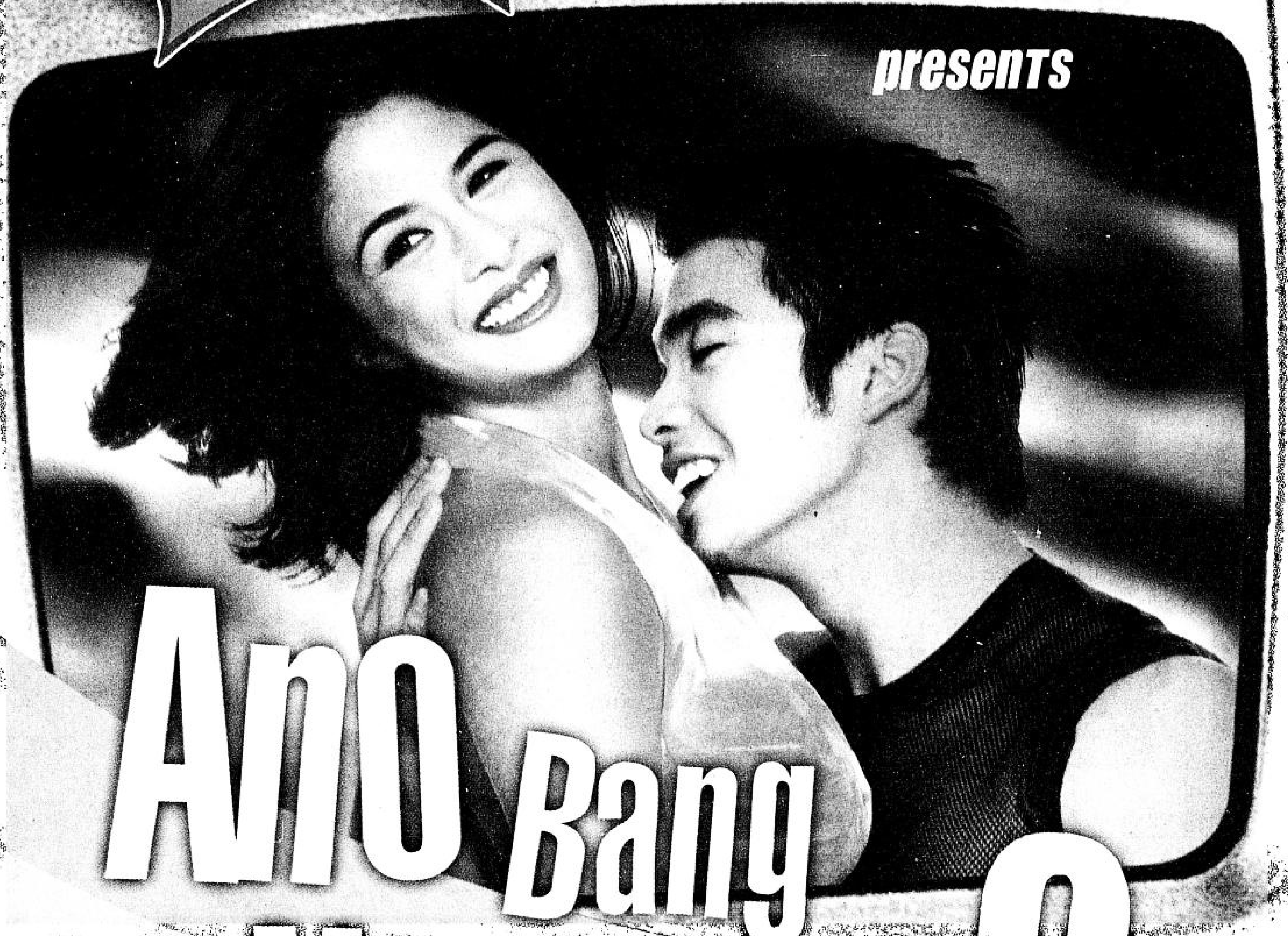

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To answer:

ANO 1 B

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Other keywords: ANO (for available quiz numbers), ANO ENTRY (for number of raffle entries earned), ANO RULES (for rules of the game), ANO PRIZES (for list of raffle prizes), ANO MOVIE (for updates on the movie), ANO HELP (for instructions on how to play).

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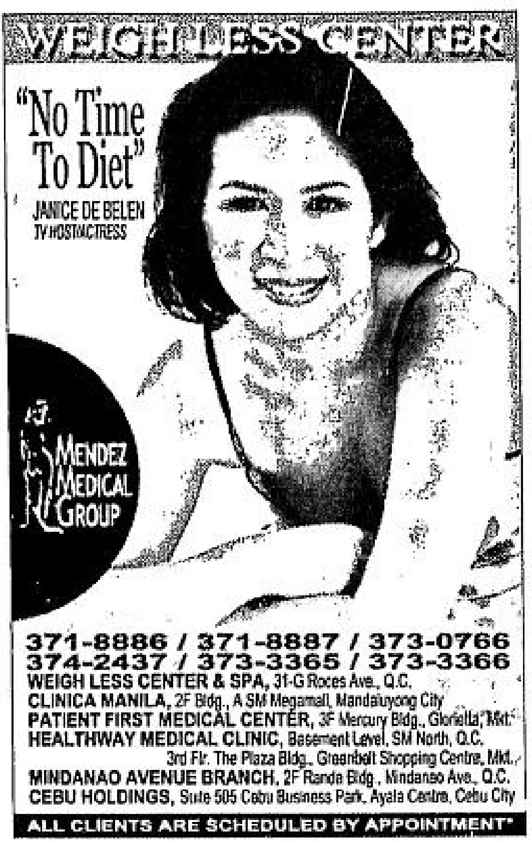

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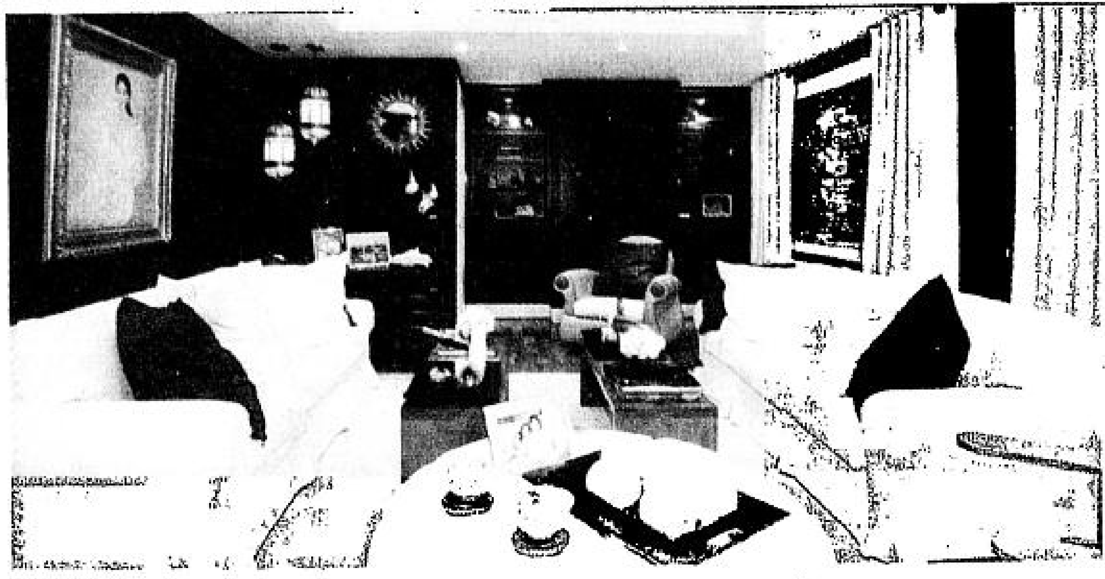

VERY few Filipinos would choose dark walls. This bold color scheme highlights the Oriental accessories such as the lacquered tray, the ostrich eggs, silver Chinese porcelain, Korean chests, woven sea grass chairs.

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Domestic bliss à la mode

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Patrick Uy

WHEN he was a bachelor, Louie Ysmael was one of Manila's most colorful personalities who ignited Manila's nightlife circuit. Now that he's happily settled down, his passions, that were once rakish, have been sublimated in the décor of his Pasig townhouse.

Typical of the cavalier Filipino married man, Ysmael attributed the new look of their residence to architect Arnel Dayanghirang, designers Ivy and Cynthia Almario, and most especially his wife, Cecille. Although she was a catalyst in the renovation and guardian of the ledger, the interior décor reflects more of Ysmael's masculine taste. If he's colorful, so is the home. Cecille's inputs included sourcing the soft furnishing and the old parts of ancestral homes.

Most Filipinos would prefer safe schemes such as neutrals or pastels. The Ysmaels favor striking cobalt blue and such stimulating colors as ochre and papaya. The strong colors give the illusion of expansion in a crowded townhouse. Corners are filled with mementos, particularly of his parents, fashion icon Chona Recto Kasten and sportsman Johnny Ysmael.

Family oriented

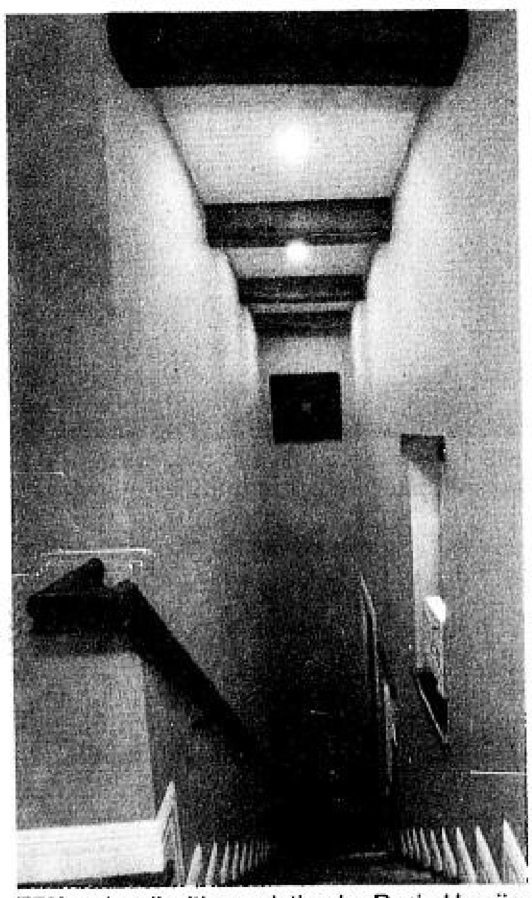
Ysmael acquired this two-bedroom townhouse in 1986 during the era of Isis and Louie Y discos. It was simple and modern with some Oriental touches, functional for a bachelor, and he called it a "slaughterhouse." Many pieces were edited. Ysmael kept memories from his mother such as her portraits and her *butaka*.

Cecille didn't want any memories of the past. To celebrate their new life together, they knocked down the walls to expand the space from 190 to 280 sq m. The house has been redesigned for casual, family entertaining. This includes a larger kitchen, more storage space, bigger servants' quarters and a terrace that compensates for the lack of garden in San Miguel Court.

The house suits their lifestyle. Ysmael wakes up at 10, does the paperwork, goes to the office, plays golf, comes home or goes to the gym, has dinner and visits Venezia when there's a special occasion. He reveals that his partners in the Venezia group such as Iñigo Zobel, Philip Cruz and Ed Roxas have tapped chef Billy King to help them in their new restaurant in Greenbelt called Nova. Designing the place are Ivy Almario and her ex-husband, Conrad Onglao.

Cecille, who loves to cook, developed an organized cabinetry system in the kitchen.

DOMESTIC/p.F6



ZEN stairwell with a painting by Rocio Urquijo. Exposed beams in natural-hewn timber highlight the ceiling. The blue painting and yellow walls pick up the colors of the living room.

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10 AM - 9PM

New book on marine conservation

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

First of two parts

MARINE conservation is a multifaceted science. Its advantages are many and go beyond increased fish catch and bigger incomes. They can also become big boosts to tourism and by extension, to the country's economy.

When one speaks of marine resources, one inevitably includes coral reefs for they are indicators of the condition of marine life in our seas. Marine conservation in the Philippines has been going on in earnest since 1974 when an Environmental Center was set up at Silliman University, which was enhanced in 1999 by a more modern Silliman University Marine Laboratory.

The laboratory and the people who man it are a dedicated group who have set up marine reserves to ensure undisturbed development of the coral reefs and marine organisms in Philippine waters. A pioneer in this work is Angel C. Alcala whose latest book, "Marine Reserves in the Philippines: Historical Development, Effects and Influence on Marine Conservation Policy," published by Bookmark, is now in book stalls.

In it, Alcala explains the various ways to succeed in marine conservation, having experienced some failures and more successes (some sites have become mecca for foreign researchers and marine biologists). While the book traces the history and development of marine reserves in the Philippines, it also appeals to our leaders and policymakers to take the problems of our marine resources more seriously.

Alcala was the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources during the first half of the Ramos administration. He is a biologist who has served in various crucial research positions at Silliman University with which he has long been connected, currently as director of the university's Marine Laboratory. It was while advancing the cause of environmental protection in the Southern Seas (Bohol Strait, Mindanao Sea, Sulu Sea, Tañon Strait and Visayan Sea) that Silliman University received a USAID grant to build a marine laboratory. The laboratory is today the bellwether of many marine projects in the country.

Importance of conservation

Alcala's book touches on many specifics and details on marine resource development and conservation. We are focusing on the importance he gives to marine reserves, coral reefs and a community-based approach to conservation.

One of the things he needed to know at the outset was: How important are coral reefs? Having lived and worked practically all his life near the sea, he observed at close range the changes in the seascape around him. He could remember when reefs were once so fertile fisherfolk could make big catches easily. Lately, he's found himself gazing "upon a devastated reef with practically no fish inhabitants...!" Marine biologists and professional scuba divers with access to the reefs confirm Alcala's fears.

Alcala explains that reefs serve as source of food, useful pharmaceuticals and chemicals important to industry, provide habitats for a wide range of marine organisms, help moderate climate by absorbing carbon dioxide for sea water and the air, serve as research and recreation areas, and help prevent land erosion by moderating wave action.

Marine reserves

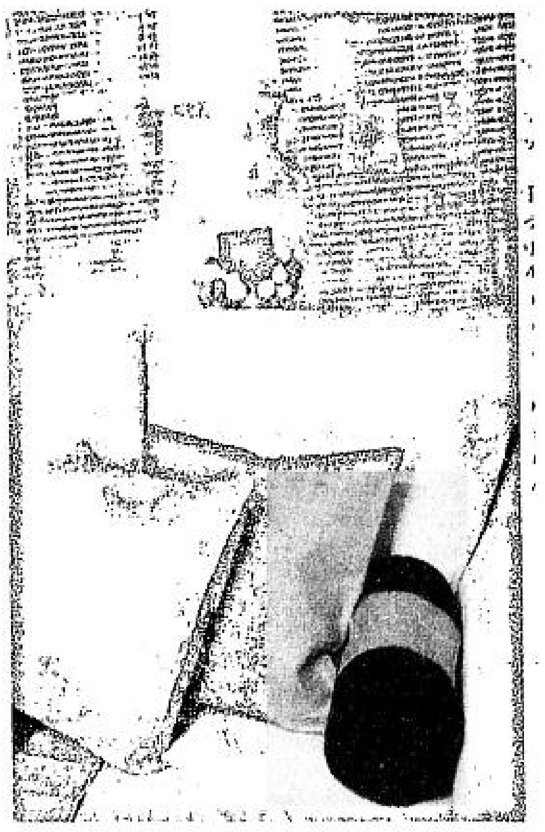
Despite all this, there are commercial trawlers, *muro-ami* or drive-in net fishing, blast or cyanide fishing that destroy not only the reef fish and other organisms but the reefs themselves. So it was timely that the Silliman University Marine Laboratory was established, for through it, the first marine reserve on Sumilon Island, off Cebu island, was set up which eventually influenced legislation to ensure their continued protection.

Marine reserves, according to Alcala, are areas of the marine environment protected from human extractive exploitation, especially fishing. The term is often interchanged with "marine protected areas" or "marine sanctuaries."

There have been debates on how big marine reserves should be, but it is evident that whether big or small, reserves have positive effects because fish and marine organisms thrive unmolested.

The initial reason for establishing marine reserves and marine parks was conservation. But in time, it was proven that protection of fish and other marine organisms in those areas resulted in increased fishery yields and reduced conflicts between groups of fishery stakeholders. Researchers also found out that reserves improved fish catch in nearby areas as well, proving further that such reserves made effective fishery management tools.

Next: Marine reserves in Sumilon and Apo islands



YELLOW Miami three-seater sofa, MKJ throw pillows, scented candles by Bright Ideas and pocket curtains by Arquitectonica, arranged by Reeya Luna

Young designers show off dream rooms

OUR HOME, the lifestyle store, showcases the latest trends in interior design—urban, rural and spice—through the dream rooms of three young and dynamic designers.

University of the Philippines graduate Ma. Encarnacion V. Angeles designed an urban dining room that adhered to the principle that "form follows function." Leora Irene Cuello Apostol of the University of Santo Tomas chose the rural look because it suggested nature, fresh air and simplicity. Reeya Luna from the College of the Holy Spirit opted for a botanical spice living room with an interior that was comfortable and not museum like.

Our Home is located at the LG/L SM Megamall A.

THIS weave design divider by Forestra is Leora Apostol's great find at Our Home.

DETAILS of Marien Angeles' urban setting

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in a majestic 15-hectare
nature park.

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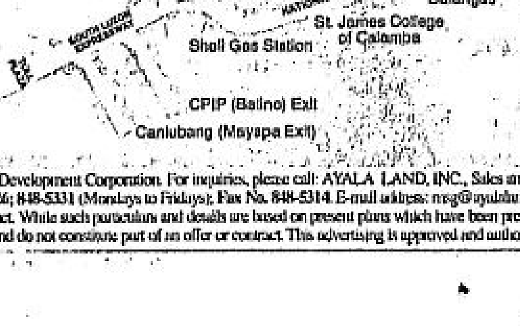

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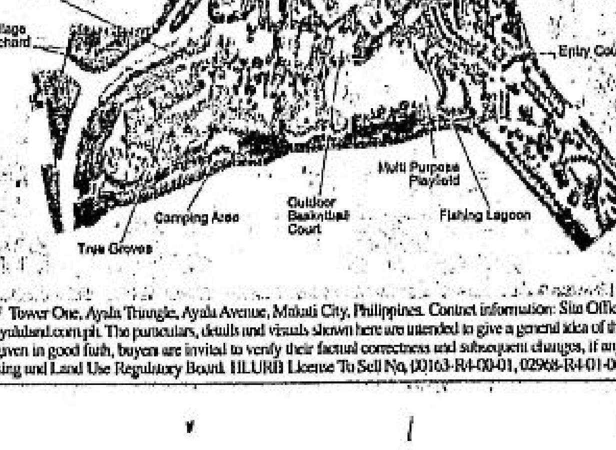

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Showcase of miniature trees set

GOINGS-ON

THE ANNUAL bonsai show, under the auspices of the Philippine Bonsai Society Inc., will be held Oct. 26-Nov. 4 at Robinsons Place, Padre Faura Wing, Ermita, Manila. Apart from the display of miniature trees, there will be a commercial section where one can buy bonsai materials, fertilizers, potted flowering plants, pots and vases, potting medium and gardening accessories.The exhibits will be free to the public. Call 812-2568 or 426-6183.

REUNION. The Mapua Institute of Technology School of Electrical Engineering Class 1971 will have its first reunion after 30 years on Nov. 30 at the Philippine Colombian Association at Plaza Dilaw, Paco, Manila. Registration will start at 6 p.m. Additional highlights of the event would be sports activities such as bowling and golf. Call Danilo Dionisio at 374-2862 or 373-9504, or Angel Apuyan at 809-6973/7029.

BAZAAR. "Heaven Sent: The Lifestyle Bazaar" will be held Nov. 10 and 11 and Nov. 17 and 18 at the Manila Polo Club. The bazaar will showcase Lanelle Abueva's pottery, antiques from Afghanistan and Thailand, handmade home furnishings from Vietnam, Domini's magic trees and herbs, Pynky's wooden furniture and antiques, Kitkat and Nelia's Fresh! Soap, Marni Ocampo's Sari-Sari products, beads of interesting shapes and textures woven into bracelets, sandals and picture frames, vintage Rolexes and other classic watches from a longtime collector, among others. Call 816-3868/73 or fax 867-1055.

DEMO TOUR. "Harry Potter" is now at Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang. Test your skills with the Harry Potter Trading Card Game and join the Magical Game Play on Oct. 28 at the 2/L Carousel Court, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Harry Potter Trading Card Game and collectible items are available at Toytown, located at the third level.

CONTEST. Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang, and Avid Sony present "A Spook-tacle of Treats." On Oct. 28, a "Kiddy Hallo-wear Costume Contest" will be held at the 2/L Carousel Court. To join, a minimum of P100 (single receipt only) purchase from any of the mall's tenants will entitle you to one registration form. The contest is open to kids aged 3 to 12 years old. Registration is until Oct. 28. Call 850-35-17 local 226, 256 or 266.

ACTIVITY. Angeles City in Pampanga celebrates "Fiestang Kuliat 2001." This annual event commemorates the feast of the city's patrons: Our Lady of La Naval on the second Sunday of October, and Apung Mamakalulu or Christ of the Holy Sepulchre on the last Friday of the month. The Villa Angela Bazaar will be held Oct. 27 and 28, and Walk Angeles (Walk for a Cause) on Oct. 28. The culminating activity will be a street party dubbed "Tigtikan Terakan Keng Dalan." Call Angeles City Tourism Office at 893-0354 or Ethel Galang at (0918) 900-8202.

WORKSHOP. The Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines will hold the National Conference and Seminar/Workshop on A-Synergy of Strategies on Establishing e-Resource Sharing and Networking, today at Monte Vista Hot Springs & Conference Resort, Calamba, Laguna. Call 523-1478, 526-4263 or 631-8501 local 410/413.

SPECIAL TREAT. Dusit Hotel presents "Wizards' Weekend" package until Nov. 5. The package rate includes an overnight accommodation for a family of four in a deluxe room, trick or treat loot bags for two kids, two entry passes to the Wizards' World at The Cafe, plus other special discount treats. On Oct. 31, magical activities await kids at The Cafe from 3-6 p.m. Call 829-2559 or 867-3333 local 3131, 3134 or 3205, or 893-2479.

SEMINAR. An interactive seminar on "The Business of Libraries: Acquisitions in a Digital Era," is set Oct. 29-30, at the Ninoy Aquino Learning Resources Center, PUP, Sta. Mesa, Manila. A lecturer from Emporia State University will conduct the seminar. E-publishers will also be in town to showcase their products. Call 338-7416, 716-7832 to -45 local 246, 247 or 248 or fax 338-7415.

SCHOLARSHIP. The Asia Fellows Program is giving opportunities to outstanding young and midcareer Asian scholars to study and conduct research projects in the arts, humanities and social sciences in a participating Asian country. Applicants should not be more than 45 years old, have a master's or doctoral degree, proficient in English or in the language of the host country appropriate to the proposed research project and must have a minimum of three years of university teaching experience for scholars or five years of work experience for professionals. Journalists, media professionals and policymakers are also eligible. Application is ongoing until Jan. 11, 2002.

CELEBRATION. Singapore gears up for 15 weeks of festivities and fun, as the Singapore Tourism Board unveils the sixth Celebration Singapore Nov. 10-Feb. 26. With the theme "Festivities for All," the festival's highlights are the Singapore River Buskers' Festival, the Christmas Light-up, Singapore River Hong Bao and the Chingay Parade.

NE school holds two alumni homecomings

AS preparation for its Silver Jubilee Foundation, the Vincentian Catholic Academy in Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija, is holding two alumni homecomings—on Nov. 2 for High School Batches '81 to '91, and on Dec. 21 for HS Batches '92 to present and Elementary Batches '98 to present. Call Milagros A. Oamil at (0917) 758-8921, Marilyn H. Sadueste at (0917) 463-9589, Sylvia M. Gaspar at (0917) 662-5154 or Julito B. Reyes at (0917) 245-1132.

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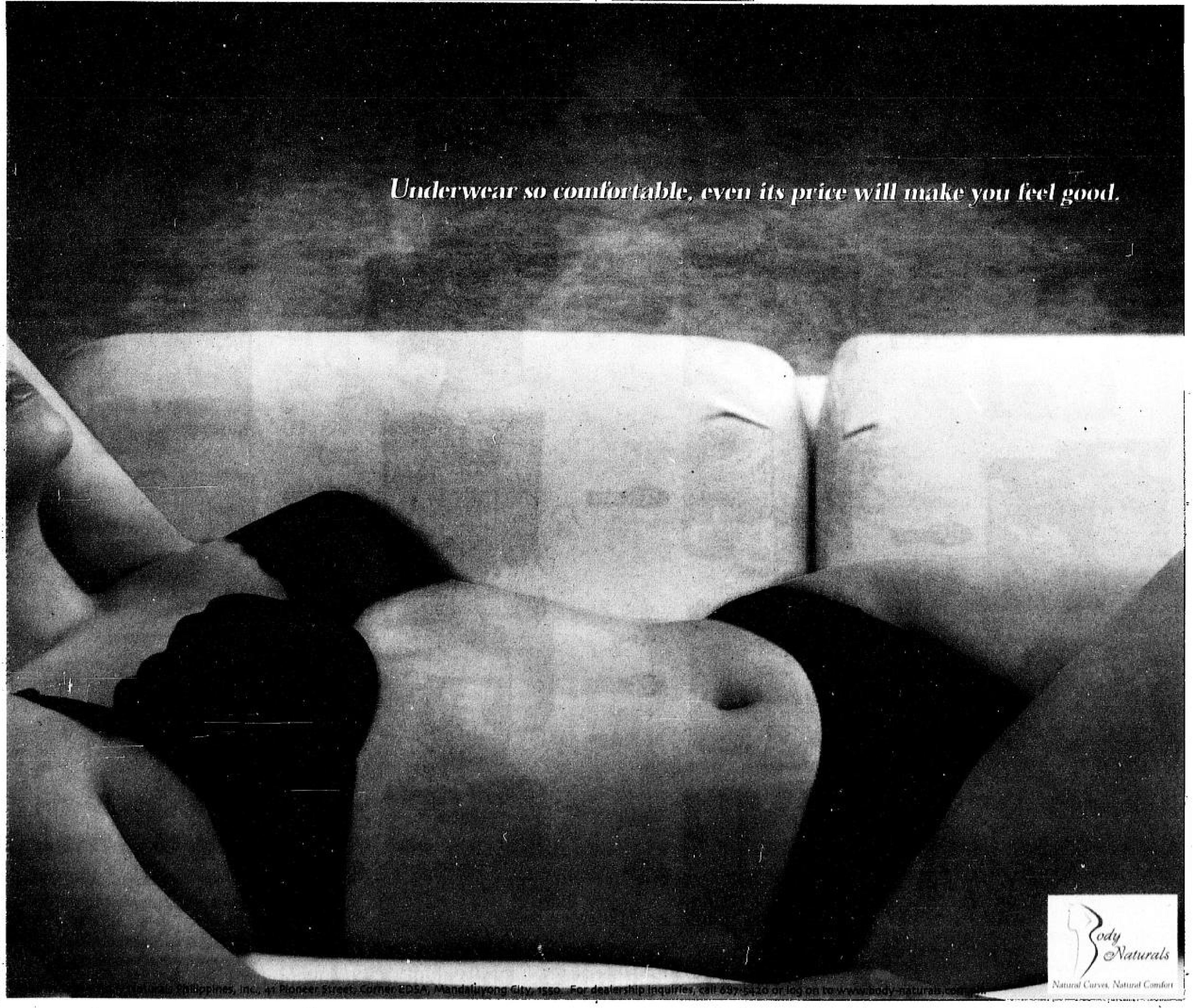
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Natural Curves, Natural Comfort
Naturals Philippines, Inc., 41 Pioneer Street, Corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City, 1550. For dealership inquiries, call 687-5420 or log on to www.body-naturals.com

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Reg. Price 75.00/kg.

MONTEREY
Pork Cubes
TLC PRICE
P130.00/kg.
Reg. Price 153.00/kg.

PURE DELIGHT
Chicken Hotdog
- Regular
1 kg.
TLC PRICE
P93.00/pk.
Reg. Price 99.00

CAMPO CARNE
Moby Hotdog
- Regular
1 kg.
TLC PRICE
P123.00/pk.
Reg. Price 129.50

CDO
Cheesedog
- Regular
- Jumbo 4 1/2"
500 g.
TLC PRICE
P60.00/pk.
Reg. Price 66.50

NEW SEÑORITO
French Fries Potatoes
450 g.
TLC PRICE
P32.00/pk.
Reg. Price 34.00

ARMSTRONG
Longganisa
- Chicken
- Kiddie Beef
500 g.
TLC PRICE
P59.00/ea.
Reg. Price 67.00

MAGNOLIA
Chicken Popcorn
1 kg.
TLC PRICE
P155.00/ea.
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MAGNOLIA
Chicken Quick Fry
1 kg.
TLC PRICE
P120.00/pk.
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TLC PRICE
P23.00/pk.
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NESTLE
Supreme Ice Cream
- Double Dutch
- Cookies & Cream
900 mL.
TLC PRICE
P95.00/ea.
Reg. Price 103.00

MANG TOMAS
All-Around Sarsa
- Regular
330 g.
TLC PRICE
P15.50/btl.
Reg. Price 16.50

DATU PUTI
Patis
1 Liter
TLC PRICE
P22.00/ea.
Reg. Price 23.50

FIL-CHOICE
Coconut Milk
400 mL.
TLC PRICE
P18.00/ea.
Reg. Price 19.25

FRY TOP
Bread Crumbs
230 g.
TLC PRICE
P36.00/ea.
Reg. Price 39.50

CAMPBELL'S
Soup
- Cream Of Mushroom, 420 g.
- Cream Of Chicken, 420 g.
- Cream Of Chicken & Corn, 420 g.
- Cream Of Chicken & Mushroom, 410 g.
- Chicken Noodle Soup, 410 g.
TLC PRICE
P53.50/ea.
Reg. Price 59.25

FLORENCE
Nata De Coco
340 g. (12 oz.)
TLC PRICE
P19.00/ea.
Reg. Price 24.75

HUNT'S
Tomato Sauce
Pouch
250 g.
TLC PRICE
P11.75/ea.
Reg. Price 13.00

DEL MONTE
Spaghetti Meat Sauce
365 g.
TLC PRICE
P38.50/ea.
Reg. Price 40.20

COOKBEST
Vegetable Oil
Plastic
1.6 kg.
TLC PRICE
P64.50/ea.
Reg. Price 65.75

MC CORMICK
Season 'n Fry Coating Mix
- Regular
- Spicy
- Garlic
65 g./2's
TLC PRICE
P36.00/pk.

Includes MC CORMICK Season 'n Fry Coating Mix 45 g.

ROYAL
Spaghetti Pasta
1 kg.
TLC PRICE
P44.75/pk.
Reg. Price 46.00

555
Sardines
- In Tomato Sauce
- With Chili
155 g./5's
TLC PRICE
P38.75/pk.
Reg. Price 39.25

555
Fried Sardines
- With Tausi
- Hot & Spicy
175 g.
TLC PRICE
P12.00/ea.
Reg. Price 12.75

CENTURY
Tuna
- Flakes In Oil
- Hot & Spicy
155 g./5's
TLC PRICE
P76.25/pk.
Reg. Price 77.50

CAMPO CARNE
Chinese Luncheon Meat
375 g.
TLC PRICE
P32.00/ea.
Reg. Price 33.25

CDO
Corned Beef
200 g.
TLC PRICE
P21.75/ea.
Reg. Price 22.50

LADY'S CHOICE
Mayonnaise
470 mL.
TLC PRICE
P81.00/jar
Reg. Price 83.25

KRAFT
Cheez Whiz
- Plain
250 g.
TLC PRICE
P45.50/ea.
Reg. Price 48.00

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Hallo

PAYLESS
Instant Mami
- Beef
- Chicken
- Bulalo
55 g.
TLC PRICE
P3.50/ea.
Reg. Price 3.65

MAYA
Hotcake Mix
500 g.
TLC PRICE
P29.75/ea.
Reg. Price 31.00

QUAKER
Instant Oatmeal
Pouch
400 g.
TLC PRICE
P52.50/ea.
Reg. Price 56.50

KELLOGG'S
Corn Frosties
175 g.
TLC PRICE
P58.50/ea.
Reg. Price 62.50

OVALTINE
Power Choco Powder
Value Bag
600 g.
TLC PRICE
P71.00/bag
Reg. Price 72.75

ENFAGROW
Growing Up Milk
- Vanilla
1 kg.
TLC PRICE
P424.75/ea.

Includes OREO 160 g.

ALASKA
Powdered Filled Milk
Pouch
350 g.
TLC PRICE
P52.25/ea.
Reg. Price 54.75

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1 Liter
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P30^{00} /ea.
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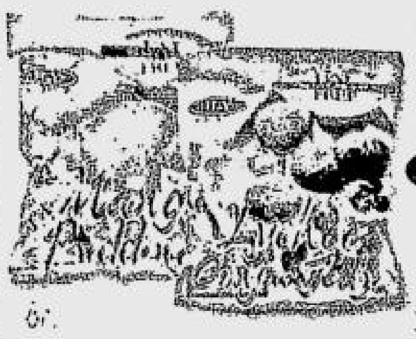
Chocolate Candies
- Plain
- Peanut

6's
TLC PRICE
P122^{50} /pk.
Reg. Price 129.50

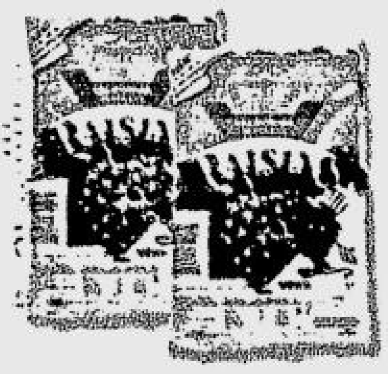


H&Y
Jelly
- Mango Pudding
- Lychee Conjac

160 g.
TLC PRICE
P16^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 17.75

SMINT
Mint
- Sugar Free
- Peppermint

40's
TLC PRICE
P40^{00} /ea.
Reg. Price 42.75



ROYAL CHOICE
California Raisins
200 g.
TLC PRICE
P34^{50} /ea.
Reg. Price 36.50

STORCK
Candies
- Melon Dews
- Tamarind
- Eucalyptus Menthol

50's
TLC PRICE
P20^{00} /bag
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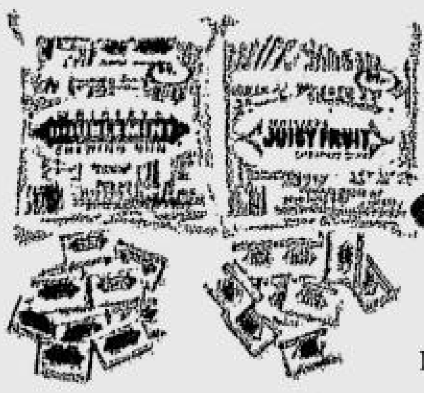


WRIGLEY'S
Tabs
- Juicy Fruit
- Doublemint

60's
TLC PRICE
P35^{00} /bag
Reg. Price 37.50

WHAMMO'S
- Chocofudge
- Choco Swirl
- Brownies

6's
TLC PRICE
P51^{00} /ea.
Reg. Price 55.00

NABISCO
Ritz Sandwich Crackers
- Vanilla
- Blueberry
- Cheese

118 g.
TLC PRICE
P26^{50} /ea.
Reg. Price 28.50

TIFFANY
Cream Biscuits
- Strawberry
- Chocolate
- Orange
- Coffee

125 g.
TLC PRICE
P15^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 17.95

BLUSKIES
Crackers
- Plain
- Cheese

25 g./ 20's
TLC PRICE
P33^{00} /pk.
Reg. Price 35.00

KEEBLER
Chocolate Lovers
453 g. (16 oz.)
TLC PRICE
P130^{00} /ea.
Reg. Price 139.50

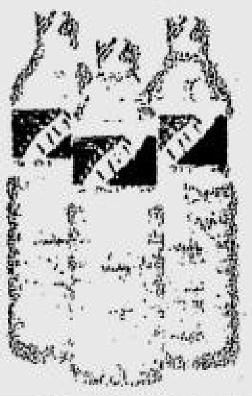
COMBOS
Crackers
- Cheddar Cheese

241 g.
TLC PRICE
P112^{50} /ea.
Reg. Price 116.50

TANG
Juice Drink Powder
- Guyabano
- Pomelo

Refill
500 g.
TLC PRICE
P35^{50} /ea.
Reg. Price 37.50

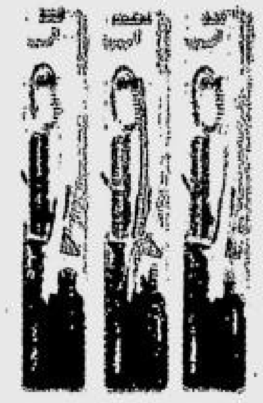
ALASKA
Choco Milk Drink
250 mL.
TLC PRICE
P10^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 12.25



VIVA
Mineral Water
1 Liter
TLC PRICE
P14^{50} /btl.
Reg. Price 15.50

PEPSI/ 7-UP
MUG ROOTBEER
In Can
330 mL.
TLC PRICE
P9^{50} /can
Reg. Price 10.95

COLT 45
In Can
330 mL.
TLC PRICE
P14^{75} /can
Reg. Price 15.75

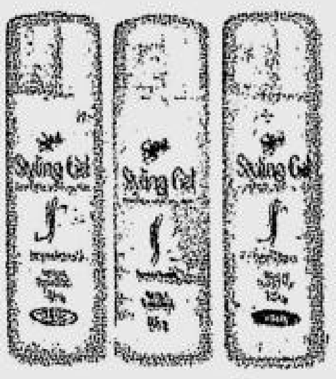


DENTAL-B
Explorer Adult Toothbrush
- Soft
- Medium
- Hard

TLC PRICE
P49^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 55.75

LANDER
Kids 2-in-1 Shampoo
- Watermelon
- Orange
- Strawberry
- Cherry

325 mL. (11 oz.)
TLC PRICE
P56^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 59.75



SPLASH
Styling Gel
- Clear
- Green
- Yellow

125 g.
TLC PRICE
P20^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 24.75

HANDGUARD
Hand Sanitizer
- Powder Sense
- Mountain Cool
- Spring Fresh

100 mL.
TLC PRICE
P34^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 36.75

FREEMAN
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- On Selected Variants

150 g.
TLC PRICE
P131^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 139.75

SOFTEE
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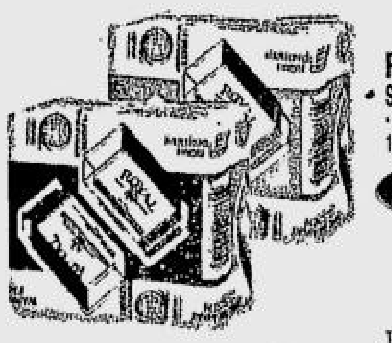
Colors
2 ply/ 9 rolls
TLC PRICE
P102^{75} /pk.

GLAD
Aluminum Foil
30 cm. x 5 m
TLC PRICE
P38^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 40.75

LIWANAG
Gel Candle
- Blueberry
- Chamomile
- Magnolia

TLC PRICE
P37^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 38.75



ROYAL
Standard Match
- Red Head

10's
TLC PRICE
P12^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 13.75

KIWI
Shoe Polish Liquid
- Black
- Brown

75 mL.
TLC PRICE
P107^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 113.75

ULTRA SWIPE
Dishwashing Liquid
- Strawberry
- Lemon
- Fruitamins
- Floral

250 mL.
TLC PRICE
P29^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 33.75

DAZZ
Dishwashing Paste
- Lemon
- Lime

Refill/ 400 g.
TLC PRICE
P21^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 23.75

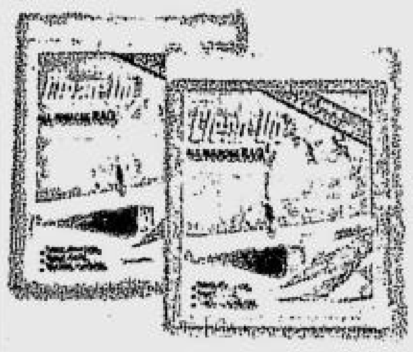
GLADE
Magic Gel Air Freshener
- Fresh Apple
- Lemon Peel
- Spring Garden

.6 kg.
TLC PRICE
P28^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 30.75

AMBI PUR
Toilet Flush Freshener
- Bouquet
- Citrus
- Forest

50 mL.
TLC PRICE
P85^{75} /ea.
Reg. Price 89.75

DURACELL
AA Alkaline Battery
4's
TLC PRICE
P71^{75} /pk.
Reg. Price 76.75



CLEAN'S UP
All Purpose Rag
- Yellow
- Orange

TLC PRICE
P24^{00} /ea.
Reg. Price 26.75

PEDIGREE
Dog Food
- Beef
- Chicken w/ Liver

3.5 kg.
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P319^{75} /bag
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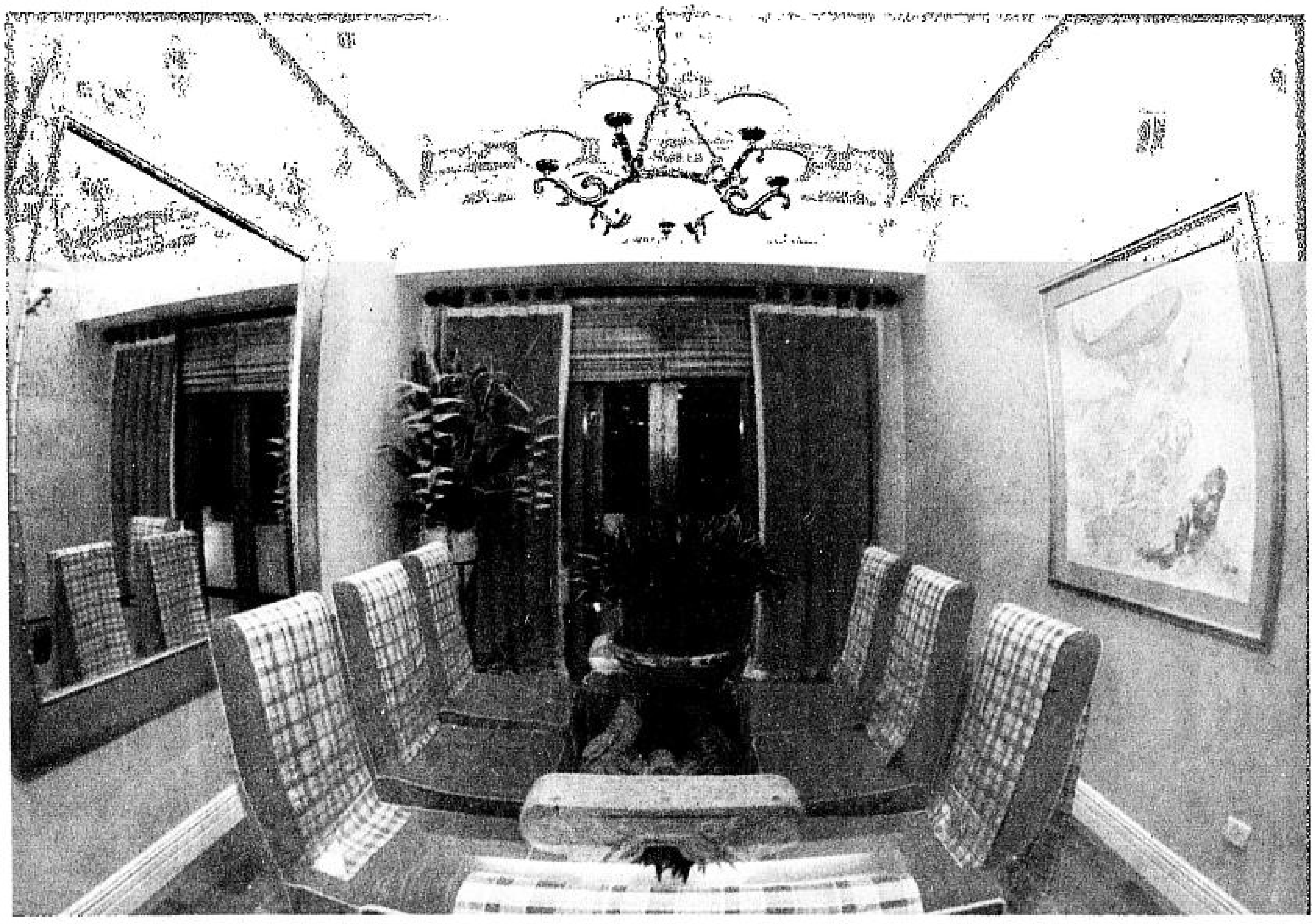
PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO: 3660 SERIES OF 2001

MEDITERRANEAN terrace shaded by a retractable awning much like St. Tropez.

Louie and Cecille Ysmael's love nest is bathed in cobalt blue and ochre, reflecting a relationship that is never dull


THE OCHRE walls and mirror visually expand the small dining room where the Ysmaels love to hold dinners. Ramon Diaz's painting of the fish is considered a "status artwork" of sorts. The Greek-style amphora serves as a flower vase. The chandelier and cove lights provide direct and diffused lighting.

Domestic bliss à la mode

THE LIVING room shows a taste that is both masculine and Westernized in the choice of colors. Claudio Bravo's portrait of Chona Kasten is focal point of the room. Comfort is the main consideration in decorating this space as reflected in the matchstick blinds framed by curtains, slip-on duck upholstery and the fluffy throw pillows. There is minimal architectural detailing except from the lights. The sliding doors lead to the foyer.

(From page F1)

East meets West

The couple describes the décor theme as a mixture of Mediterranean and Asian. The Mediterranean influence is seen in the vivid color scheme and the terrace. replete with Spanish tiles, prints from St. Tropez and striped upholstery on the banquette. It's nice to watch the sunset in the *terrazo* and hear the water cascading down the fountain made from stones, and surrounded by orchids, bromeliads and lotuses.

The house has more Asian touches in the absence of cornices in some parts of the house and in the objets d'art and Oriental carpet. Almario helped in the selection of the furnishing and guided her clients in creating a visual continuity from the stairwell to the bedrooms.

The stairwell leading to the living and dining rooms is painted in delicious papaya. Cecille sourced the antique *molave* beams that line the ceiling. Rocio Urquijo, the mother of Louie's partner, Inigo Zobel, decorated this space with niches displaying artifacts and a painting.

Focus on Chona

Almario introduced casings and moldings to enhance the interior design. Cecille creates a visual interest at the top of the landing by placing a wrought-iron table with a stone top and lamps with silver leaf coating. A gold-leafed framed mirror enlarges the space.

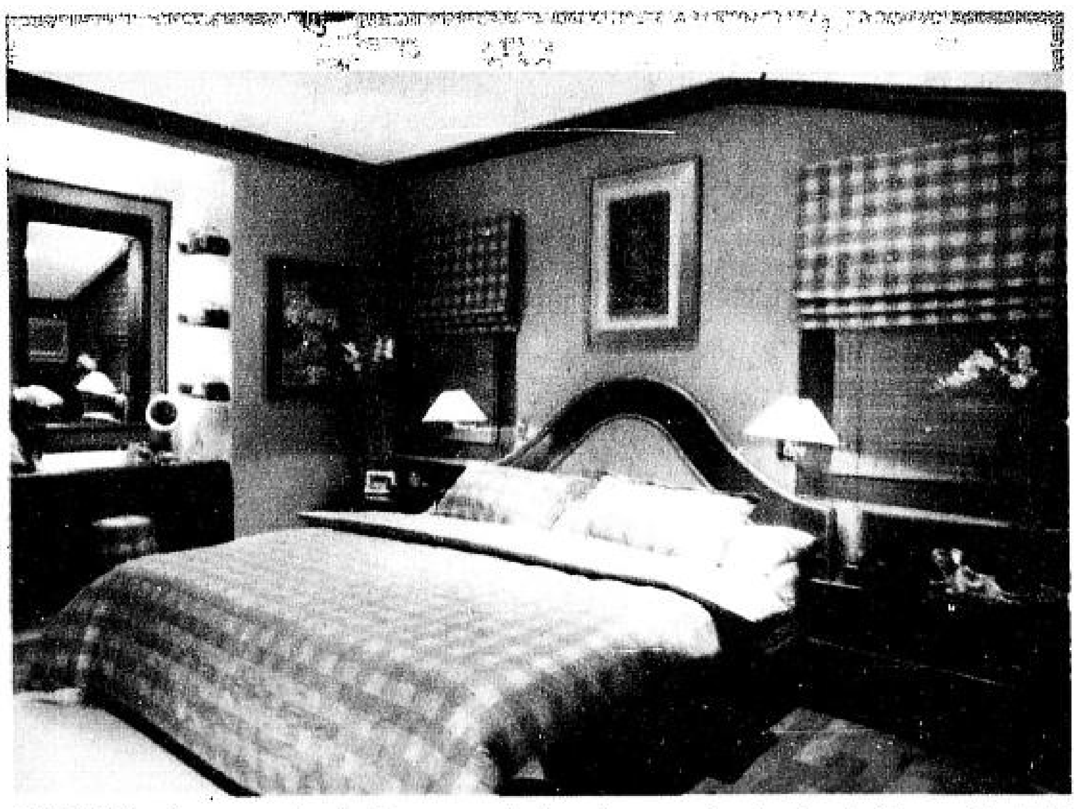
Cecille tried to convince Almario to color the living room in cobalt blue. Almario installed a vaulted ceiling to give the illusion of height aside from added visual interest. The living room reflects casual living as it is appointed with comfortable armchairs and ottomans and three sofas to maximize the entertainment. White upholstery and accent pieces unify the room.

The room is made elegant by accent throw pillows made from Jim Thompson silk, silk curtains from a supplier to Sukho Thai hotels and such Oriental pieces as chests, conch shells with silver from India, Cambodian silver, trays from Bangkok, solid narra tables and collections from the Ysmaels' travels. Uncannily the arrangement points to the portrait of Chona Kasten by Claudio Bravo. Her fuchsia caftan and gold bangle stand out in the sea of blue.

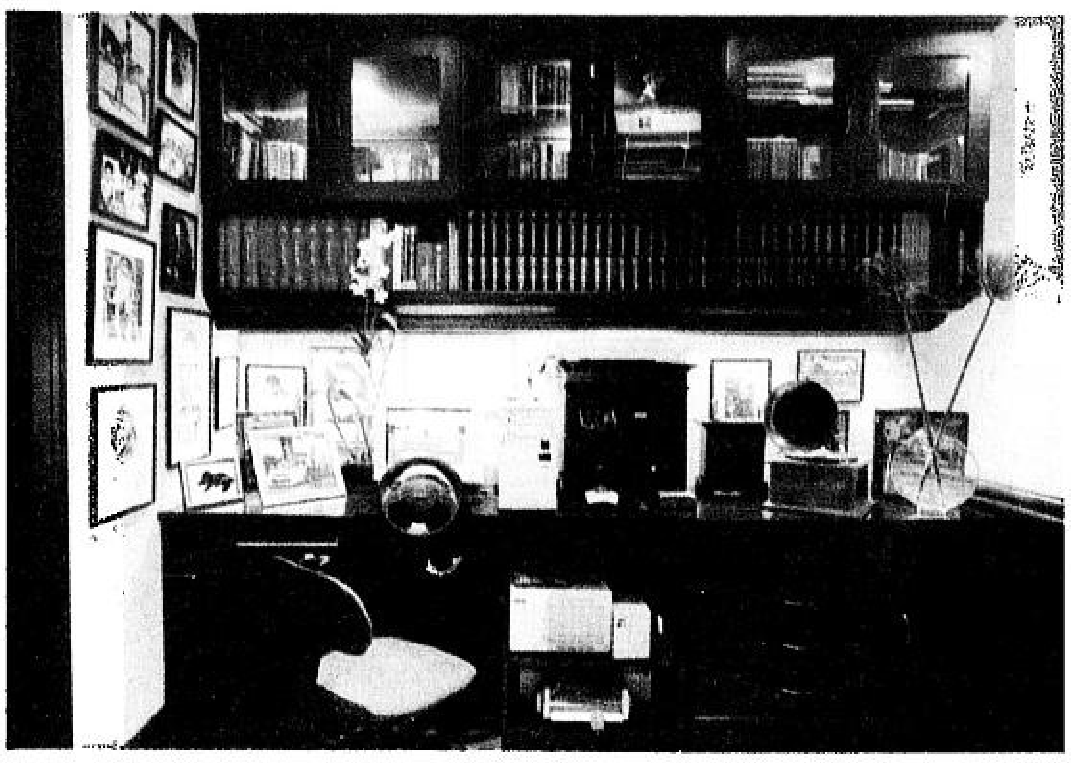
An odd corner by another stairwell is utilized by setting up a tray that was a wedding present and a telephone.

The fiesta colors of the dining room with the colorful plaid throw pillows call attention that this is another important space in the home. The

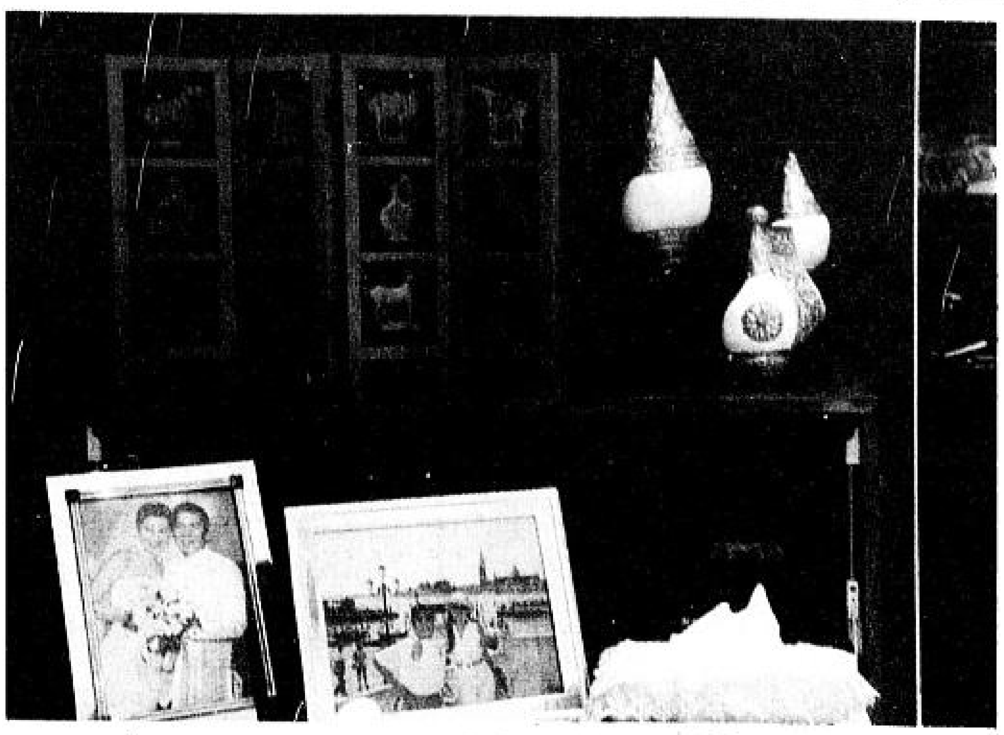
DOMESTIC/ p.F7


MASTER bedroom was inspired by a resort. It makes use of natural materials and is made elegant by Thai silk soft furnishing. Matchstick blinds hide the lighting for soft glow. The headboard is made of polychrome with woodcarving.

GUEST room (soon to be the child's room) is unique because of the bold patterned silk walls and a sleigh wicker bed. Pictures of Louie's parents adorn the wall.



ALCOVE TURNED OFFICE. The approach is so English with the wooden cabinetry, yet the steering wheel gives it a it little twist.



ORIENTAL vignette in the sala consists of a writing table, Indian shells with repousse silver, burl wooden screens with soap stone figures. Family photos add a homey touch.

Domestic bliss à la mode

(From page F6)

main pieces in the ochre room are the glass top dining table with sandstone base, a painting of *koi* fish for good luck and a giant mirror. Almario explains that in feng shui, if the mirror holds the reflection of the fish and the food on the table, the prosperity will double. Every week Cecille changes the flower arrangements.

Private spaces

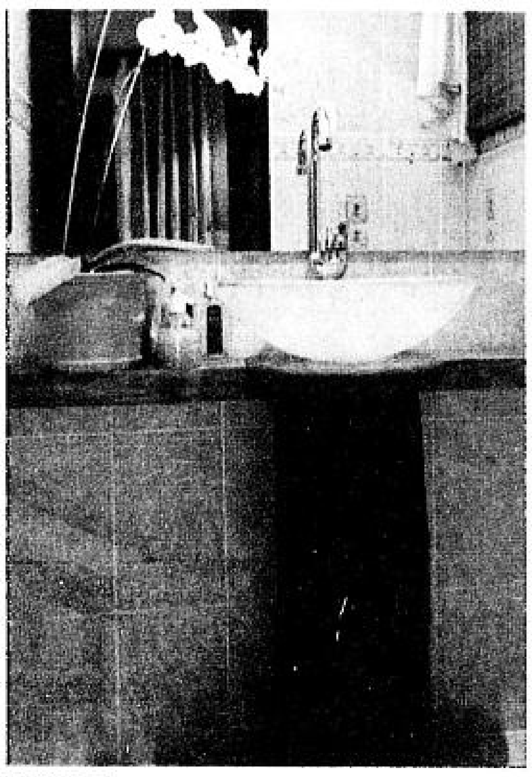
Upon reaching the third level where the bedrooms are, Ysmael converts the landing into a library of sorts. This is Ysmael's private space. When he wants to release tension, he grabs the steering wheel attached to his computer and indulges in virtual formula racing. Trophies, a gramophone and more old pictures lend character to the space.

The bedroom walls are padded with Thai silk. The rattan and narra furniture was inspired by the look of an Aman resort. The doors are covered with sea grass to match the headboard and cabinets. Matchstick blinds and sheer curtains allow light to filter into this dark room lit by 58 dimmers.

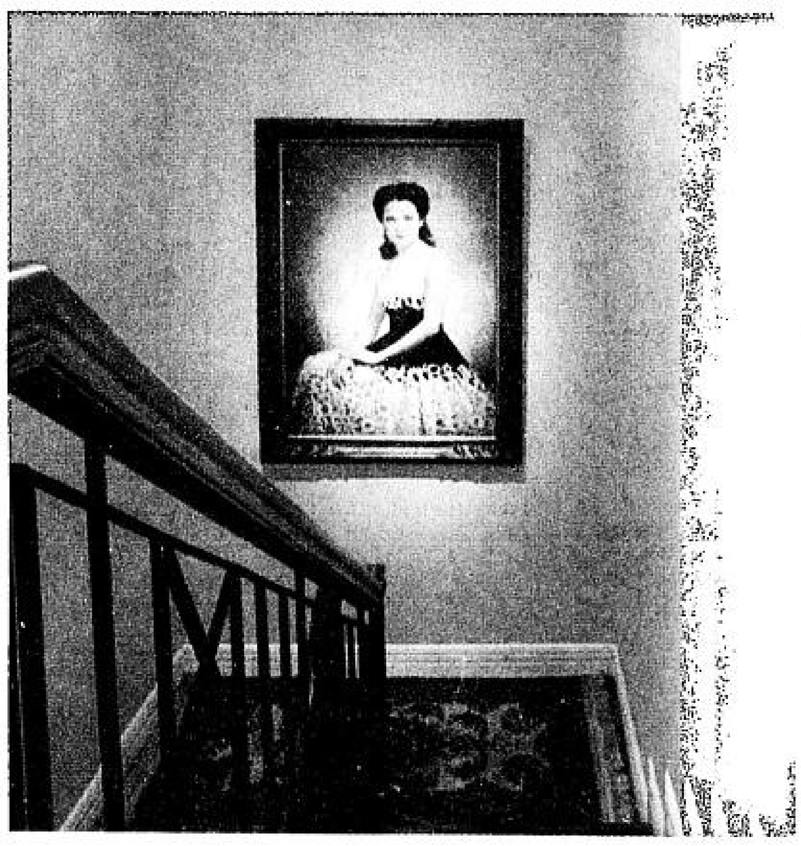
Obviously the bedroom had to be expanded for the couple to include the walk-in closet. Like a true Scorpio, Cecille discovered a hidden space just under the stairwell, which was converted into a storage area.

Indeed, the home looks as if man-about-town Louie Y is ready for a family life. The couple has been married for three years. Asked how has life been, Ysmael replied, "Every day is a honeymoon."

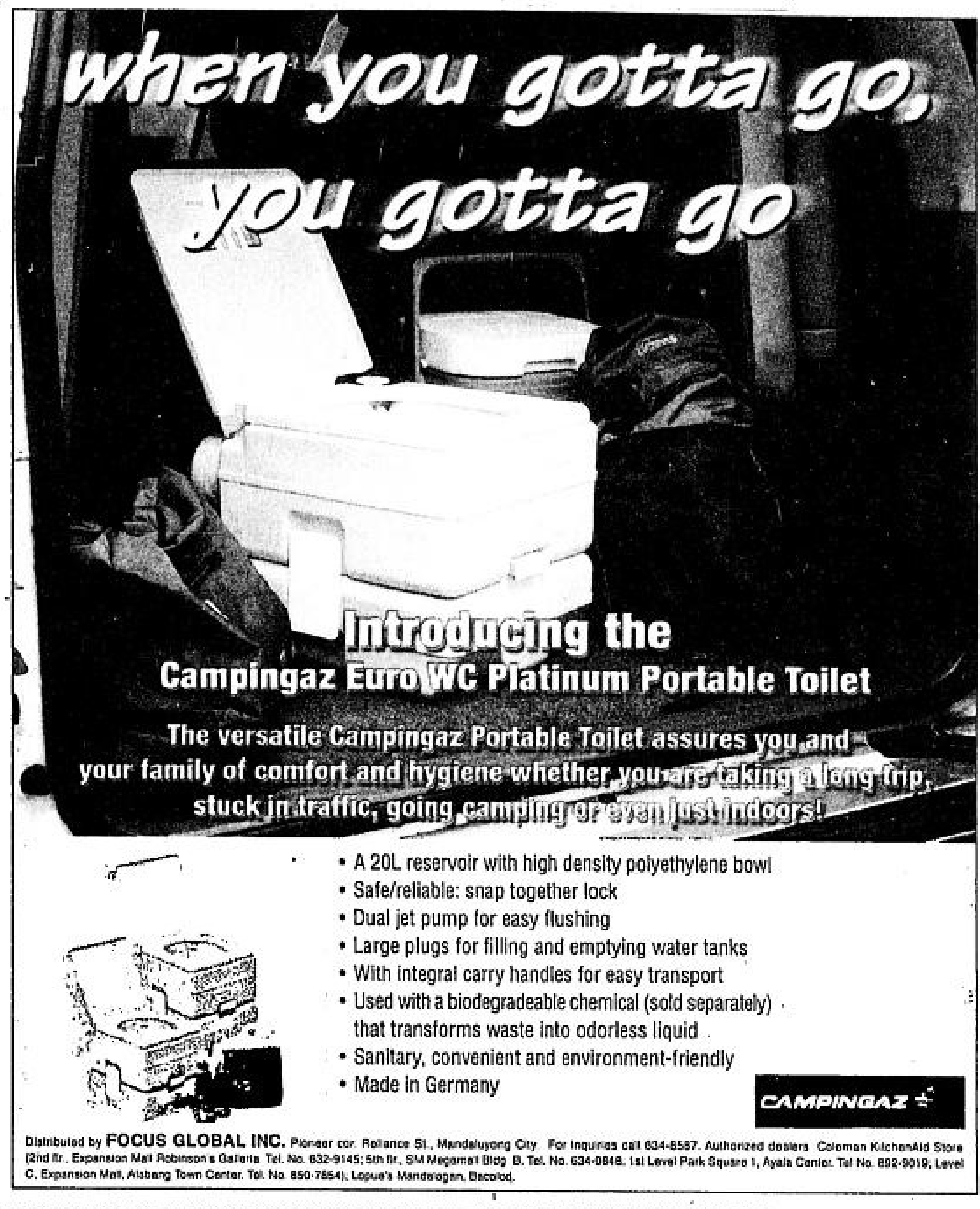
Cecille said they have been attending Couples for Christ gatherings every Tuesday. "I want to put God between our relationship," she said.



POWDER room features a counter made of molave pedestal with a glass wash basin.



CHONA Kasten's portrait by Amorsolo adorns the landing.



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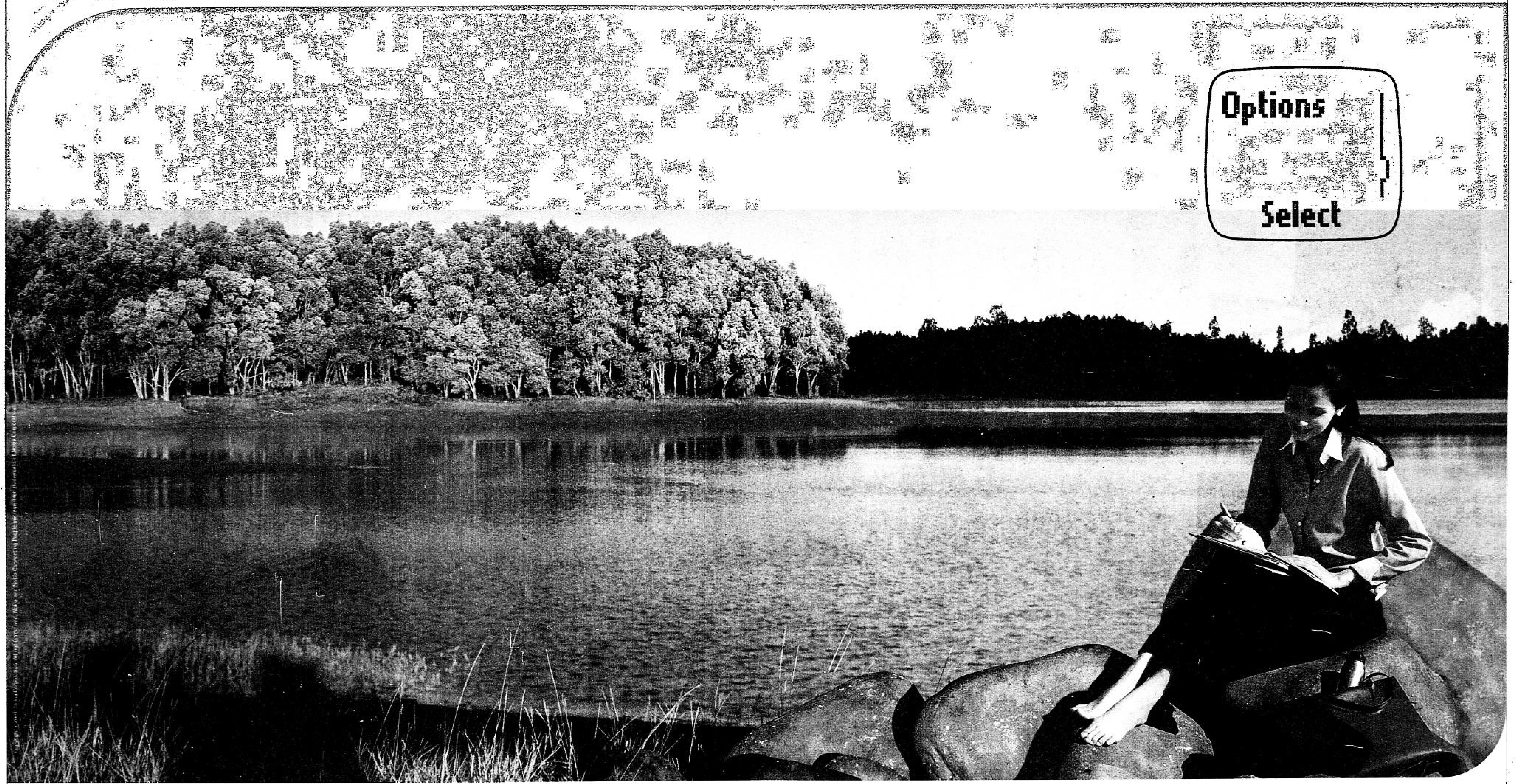

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Trend Spotting
LIFESTYLE

A fashion not so unusual

The Filipino male taste in fashion is generally conventional. Marden Iglesias puts a little anarchist twist to it

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Raymond Lauchengco

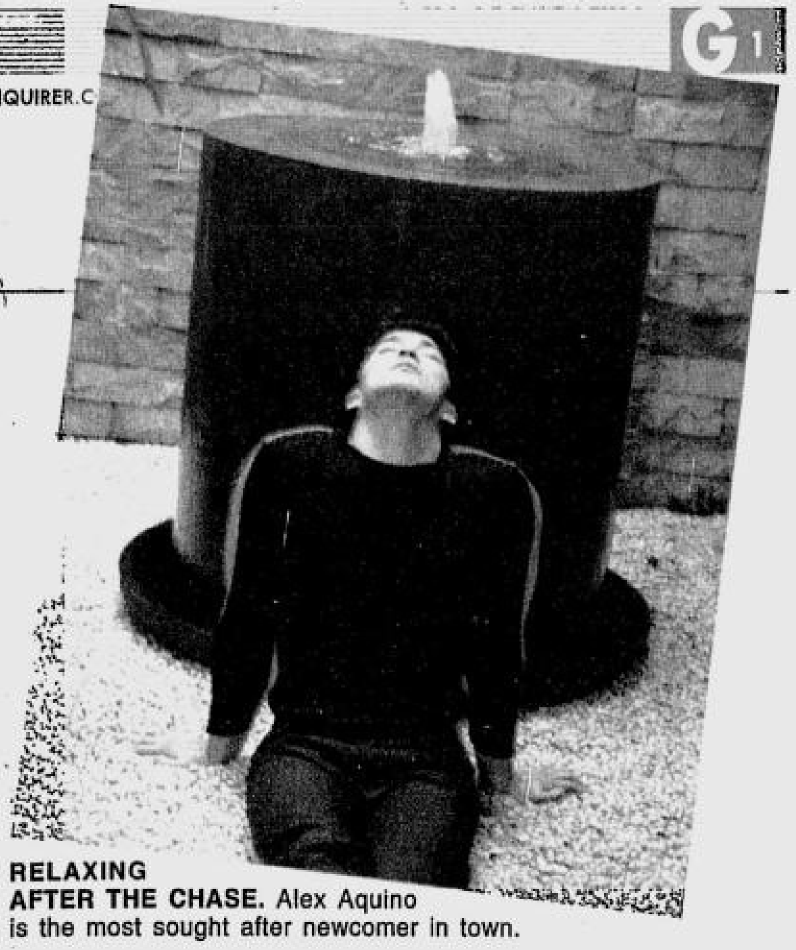
A FASHION-FORWARD men's collection and a model who's the most lusted newcomer in town can drive away the rainy day blues and bring down a fever as what this writer experienced last Saturday in Malate.

Even if Filipino men splurge on labels, they'll stick to conventional styles and colors. This poses a challenge to the creativity of menswear designers who tell fashion writers, again and again, that the Filipino male favors the classic look but expects some twists in details. Until the end of time, you'll hear this commentary about the Filipino male's predictable style from them.

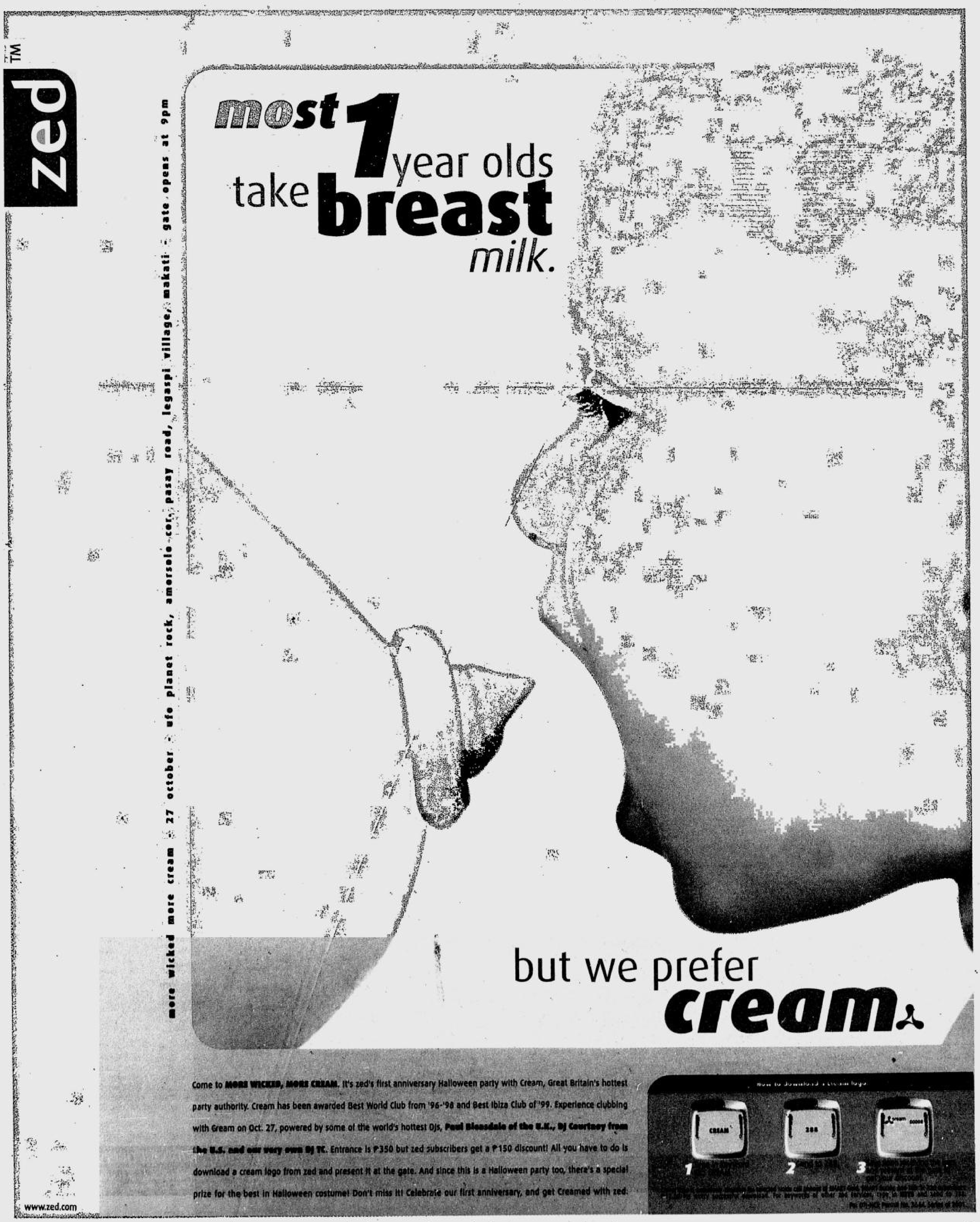
However, Marden Iglesias goes against the tide of convention—at least in this collection, made for INQUIRER. Iglesias is a newsmaker, having merited the title Menswear Designer of the Year from the first Roehr-Mega Fashion Awards.

Inspired by his recent trip to Milan to watch the men's collections, Iglesias recreated the look of the late '70s and early '80s—raglan sleeves, powder blue and hand-sewn pop stitches. The collars are wider and squarish. The pants sport a lower waistline and shorter crotches. Completing the Moda Milanese look are tan shoes, bright

A FASHION/ p.G3



RELAXING AFTER THE CHASE. Alex Aquino is the most sought after newcomer in town.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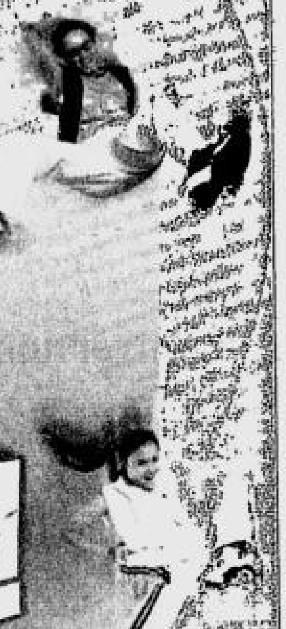

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Ma. Chita M. Galicia
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820 Gold St. Camella Homes 3, Sucat, Parañaque City

Vilma Sanches
Garden Orchid Hotel, La Union

Rebecca Trocio
Kinalumsan Lapu-Lapu City

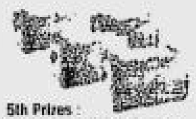
4th Prizes: Three (3) SHIMANO Mountain Bikes

Joy M. Calderon
0089 Tuburan Dist. Pagadian City

Baby H. Mamintag
Papandayan Pina Or. Mindoro

Teresito S. Tan
Lipata, Minglanilla, Cebu City

Other Grand Draw Winners



5th Prizes:
Four (4) COLEMAN Coolers

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Domma Soliman
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Bgy. Mayuli Marcos, Ilocos Norte

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Molo, Iloilo City

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c/o MBC 2/F, Cinco Centrum
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33 Zamora St., San Fernando City

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Iloilo City

Jovena Rhea Enderes
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Naga City

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Paciencia Comp. Tipolo,
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1343-A Miguelin St.,
Sampaloc, Mla.

Mary Noralyn Sereno
Roosevelt Busay, Cebu City

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Alocillo Res. 15 B S. Angeles St.,
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Michelle Reyes
B6 L19 Barcelona St., Camella
Townhomes Classic Sucat,
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San Antonio Vill. Apas, Lahug,
Cebu City

Cecilia Augusto
Dap-dap Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City

Marissa Villamor
Blk 1 Cluster 13 Kalinaya St.,
Talalon, Q.C.

Ike P. Salinding
Labangan Zamboanga Del Sur

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TSI La Union

Ritzie Perez
TSI Mega Mall

Rhoda Jinson
Audionet Ayala Cebu City

Remelyn Regino
ADI Telecom

Khristine Pia Enriquez
Audionet Trading SM Cebu

Cyril Roy Fineza
TSI SM City

Rogelio Seo
TSI Galleria

Melissa Ordinato
JPS Cell Phone Mdtg.

Mary Ann dela Cruz
Cellumar

Belinda Olalo
Audionet Fuente

Vivien Los Prado
TSI Baguio

Coleen Cervantes
Audionet Trading SM

Belinda Olalo
Audionet Fuente

Jennifer Boronia
ADI Coyeesan Grand Hotel

Evelinda Silvestre
TSI Urdaneta

Ma. Bernadette Auto
TSI SM Manila

Raju Mohinani
Metro Shoppers

TSI Pagadian
TSI Pagadian

TSI Pagadian
TSI Pagadian

Wilson Janoras
ECG Telecoms

Karen Mago
TSI SM Pampanga

Bernadita Manacap
Audionet Trading

Robert Ongsonsing
Videocon Mdsg. Iloilo City

Bernadita Manacap
Audionet Trading

Rachelle Guerrero
TSI Cubao

Suzette Sucgang
Audionet Trading

Flora Comendador
ADI Telecom

Cherry Lyn Labajo
Audionet Ayala

Ma. Cynthia Sabanal
TSI Festival

Jane Ebreo
TSI Balanga

Clarence dela Merced
GPCPC Caloocan City

Celestino Trono
TSI Galleria

Andrea Valenzuela
TSI Las Pinas

Edward Mendoza
TSI Sta. Lucia

Eulogio Tabale, Sr.
TSI Legaspi

Aleli Guevarra
TSI SM Southmall

Ellen Gail Masirag
TSI Santiago

Lizette Nuestro
TSI Festival

Arnulfo Alano
TSI SM City North EDSA

Chet Quintos
Wisebuy Cellular Shoppe

Pemie Juele
Wisebuy Cellular Shoppe

Jonalyn Moral
ADI Cubao

Cyndee Cabahug
Audionet Ayala

Jenny Ann Aganda
TSI Sta. Lucia

Jovelyn Comines
TSI SM City

Malachi Maullon
TSI Sta. Lucia

Keeziah Catherine Fuentes
TSI Megamall

Karen Mago
TSI SM Pampanga

Coleen Cervantes
Audionet Trading SM Cebu

Timoteo Bayboy
McGala

RCG Comm. Ent.
Emerald Lane Virramall
Green Hills, San Juan

Vicky Siapno
TSI SM Southmall

Suzette Sucgang
Audionet Trading

Cyndee Cabahug
Audionet Ayala

Allan Ramacola
TSI Galleria

Alaine Ledesma
TSI SM Sucat

Cyndee Cabahug
Audionet Ayala

Jo-Ann Paghubasan
Audionet SM Cebu

Mary Jane Marquez
TSI Tuguegarao

Evangeline Menguito
Audionet Trading

Khandee Q. Resuta
Audionet Ayala Cebu City

Evelyn Medina
TSI Paranaque

Alaine Ledesma
TSI SM Sucat

Darius Quisquirin
TSI Pagadian

Marilyn Indac
TSI SM Cebu City

Jane Ebreo
TSI Balanga

TSI Pagadian
TSI Pagadian

Lovely Octaviano
Audionet Trading Cebu

Ma. Bernadette Auto
TSI Inc

Joey Labayo
TSI Urdaneta

Guanzon
Perez Blvd. Dagupan City
Pangasinan

Joy David
TSI SM Sucat

Cynthia Tampoy
ADI Telecom

Michael Villarin
Audionet Trading Bacolod City

Fred Tan
ST Tan Trading

Cherry Lyn Labajo
TSI Ayala Center Cebu

Arjay Lindaya
TSI Festival

TSI Ozamis
TSI Ozamis

Jason Mara
TSI Bacolod

Roy Deldig
Audionet SM Cebu

Norman Bobis
TSI Sta. Lucia

Khristine Pia Enriquez
Audionet Trading SM Cebu

Valiant Electronics Supply
Pagadian Wireless Center
Pagadian City

Jonalyn Moral
ADI Farmers Cubao

Eleneth Villavicencio
Audionet Trading SM Cebu

Khristine Pia Enriquez
Audionet Trading SM Cebu

Marcos Aldo
McGala, San Pedro Laguna

Jason Chiong
Celluplanet, Pagadian City

Marlon Rebusa
TSI SM Manila

Daisy Pacson
TSI Paranaque

Grace Jamin
TSI SM Manila

Kate D. Medina
TSI SM Pampanga

Melody King
Channel Plus Pinamalaya,
Mindoro

Joey Labayo
TSI Urdaneta

Jennifer Diaz
TSI Butuan

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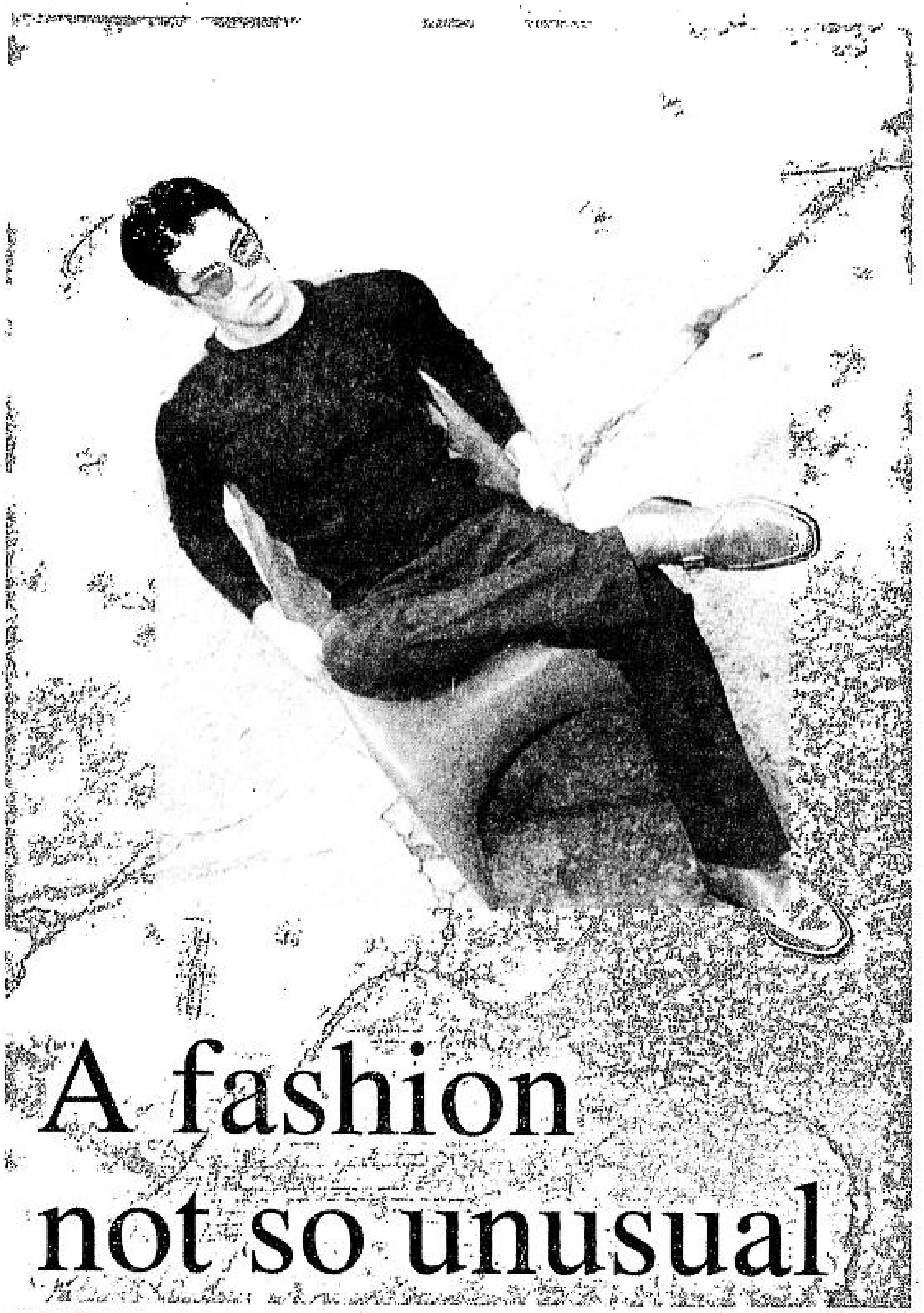
DANDY. This Prince of Wales light wool jacket with a striped pocket square goes with the blue shirt and the chocolate checkered pants. Shoes by Loren's.



A fashion not so unusual

FIT KNIT. This black boucle knit with orange stripes, edged with tracery on the shoulder, goes with this black stretch jeans and belt, both by MR Rustan's. Team them with tan buckled shoes by Loren's.

(From page G1)

colored socks and rimless sunglasses.

"Considering the constraints in ready-to-wear, this collection is more of an expression. It's what I've been wanting to show," he said.

Savvy

Iglesias majored in communication arts at De La Salle College. On the side he took a short course in fashion design at Slim's. He acquired a savvy for design aesthetics and styling so that designer Danny de la Cuesta saw his potential.

"It was a good alternative. My parents wanted me to go to law school since we come from a family of lawyers," Iglesias said. He ended up handling De la Cuesta's men's line. "I guess I don't look good in a Chanel suit," he said in jest.

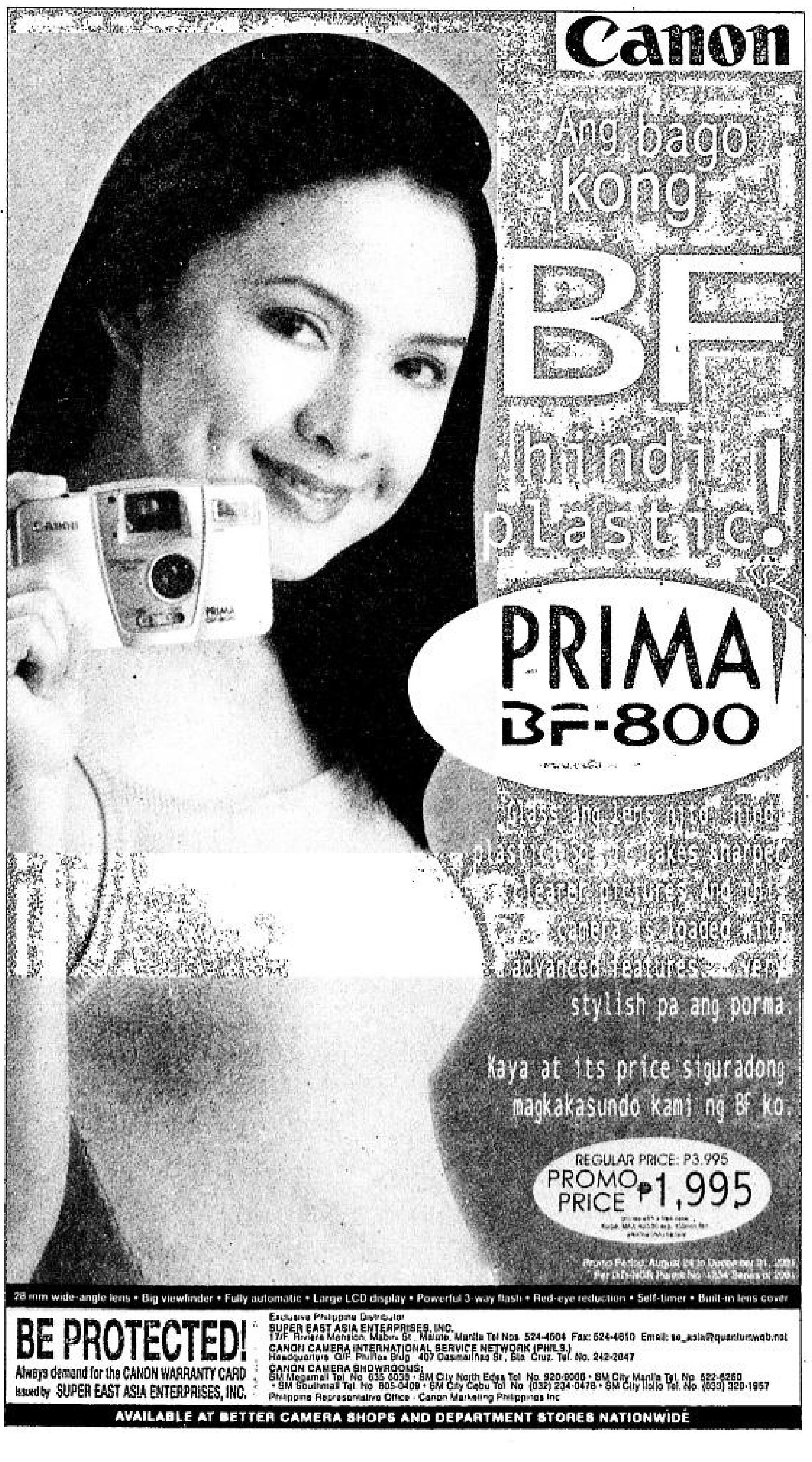
The experience exposed him to the nitty-gritty of ready-to-wear and introduced him to other designers such as the late Carlos Badidoy, Auggie Cordero, Inno Sotto and Cesar Gaupo. He

A FASHION/ p.G5

RETRO CONTEMPO. Think Steve McQueen in "St. Tropez" if you're a baby boomer. This camel fine gab jacket is teamed with a diagonally striped cotton shirt in aqua and camel and flat-front pants in sky blue. Laced shoes by Luce.

GROOMING BY LOURD RYAN RAMOS OF EMPHASIS SALON, ROCKWELL INFORMATION CENTER.
SHOES AND BELTS FROM RUSTAN'S

SPECIAL THANKS TO VANNA CALALANG OF LUNA, COLIN MACKAY OF PEOPLE'S PALACE, RICHARD DANAO AND MARKUS SCHMIDT OF FIRMA


Canon
Ang bago kong BF hindi plastic!
PRIMA BF-800
[illegible] plastic so it takes sharper, clearer pictures. And this camera is loaded with advanced features... Very stylish pa ang porma.
Kaya at its price siguradong magkakasundo kami ng BF ko.
REGULAR PRICE: P3,995
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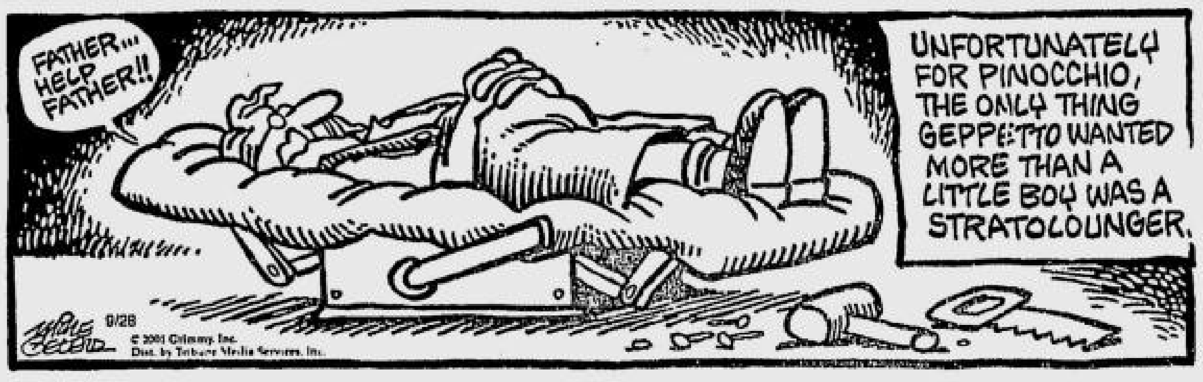
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


FATHER... HELP FATHER!!
UNFORTUNATELY FOR PINOCCHIO, THE ONLY THING GEPPETTO WANTED MORE THAN A LITTLE BOY WAS A STRATOLOUNGER.
9/28
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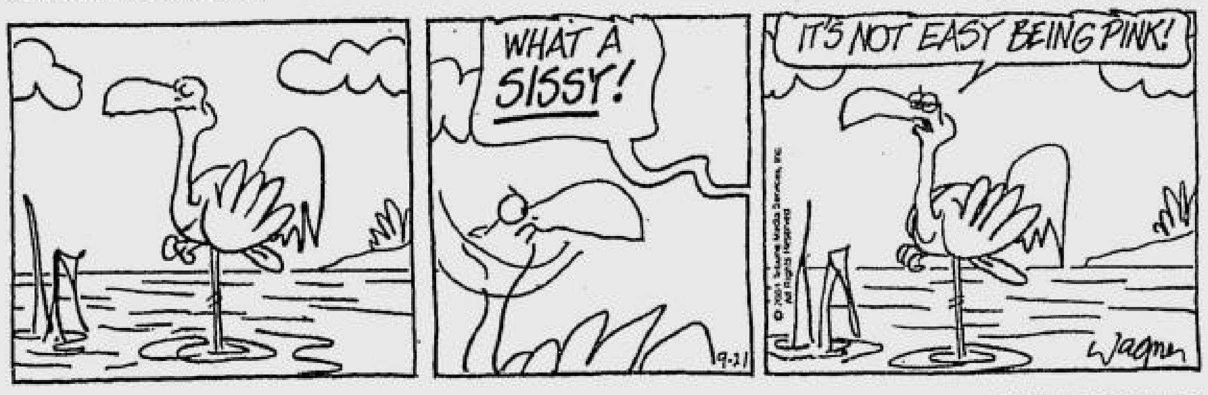
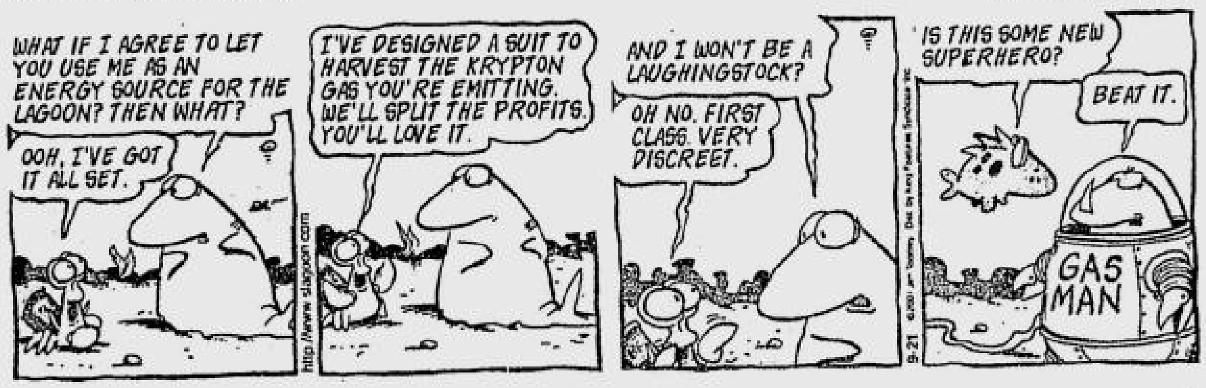
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WHAT A SISSY!
IT'S NOT EASY BEING PINK!
9-21
Wagner

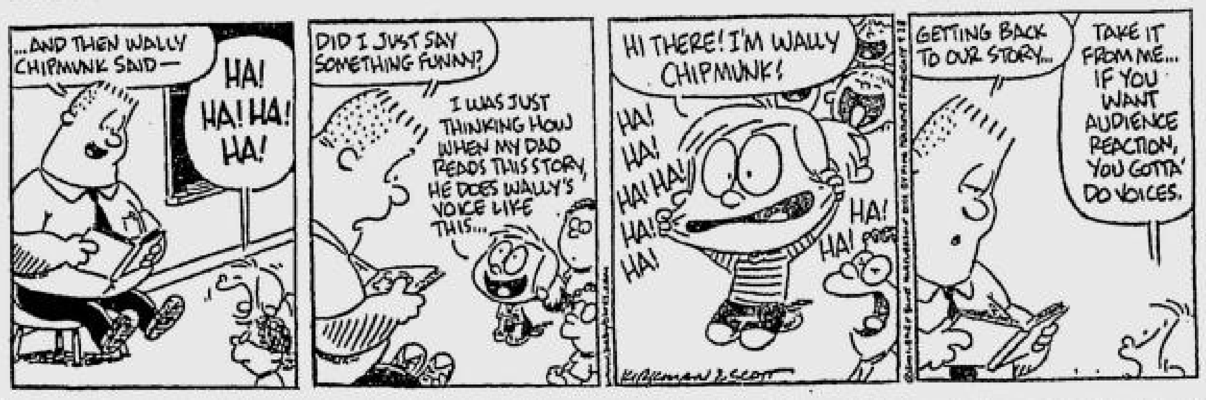
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT IF I AGREE TO LET YOU USE ME AS AN ENERGY SOURCE FOR THE LAGOON? THEN WHAT?
OOH, I'VE GOT IT ALL SET.
I'VE DESIGNED A SUIT TO HARVEST THE KRYPTON GAS YOU'RE EMITTING. WE'LL SPLIT THE PROFITS. YOU'LL LOVE IT.
http://www.slagoon.com
AND I WON'T BE A LAUGHINGSTOCK?
OH NO. FIRST CLASS. VERY DISCREET.
9-21
IS THIS SOME NEW SUPERHERO?
BEAT IT.
GAS MAN

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


...AND THEN WALLY CHIPMUNK SAID—
HA! HA! HA! HA!
DID I JUST SAY SOMETHING FUNNY?
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW WHEN MY DAD READS THIS STORY, HE DOES WALLY'S VOICE LIKE THIS...
HI THERE! I'M WALLY CHIPMUNK!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
HA! HA!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
GETTING BACK TO OUR STORY...
TAKE IT FROM ME... IF YOU WANT AUDIENCE REACTION, YOU GOTTA' DO VOICES.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hillary Clinton, Bob Hoskins, Rita Wilson, Dylan McDermott, Jaclyn Smith, Pat Sajak

Happy Birthday: You're finally getting it together. Your plans are sound and your ability to finish what you start will lead to results. Don't be shy; you deserve the rewards for your efforts. Be gracious, and you will have continued success. Your numbers: 16, 22, 34, 39, 42, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't be stubborn. Ask for help, but don't lend or borrow money or neglect your own responsibilities. You have to exert more patience when dealing with children.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Creative work will bring the highest rewards. Expand your horizons by getting involved in unusual forms of entertainment. You will be drawn toward individuals who are stimulating and intelligent.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will hear some interesting news today. You should be planning to catch up on phone calls or taking short trips to visit old friends or relatives. Connect with your past to discover the future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will feel anxious if your partner wants to talk about your relationship. Listen to any concerns. Be understanding and compassionate if you wish to patch things up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can expect your domestic scene to be unstable. Be sure to take heed of advice given by close friends. Don't take your lover for granted. You need to reflect a bit about your motives.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You must not get trapped in one-sided infatuations at work. Keep your desires to yourself and don't let even your closest friend know how you feel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Spend some time with the one you love. Make plans to do things that interest both of you. A little travel would be a great way to start off the weekend. The more you do together the closer you will become.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You must not take on the weight of the world. Don't let anyone make you feel guilty for another's shortcomings. You need to be objective but not a pushover. It's time to look out for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can't expect everyone to agree with you today. If you don't want to argue, then don't get involved in a debate. It's best to do things that promise to be enlightening and insightful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You should be looking into any minor health problems that have been bothering you. It's time to set up a game plan and stick to it.

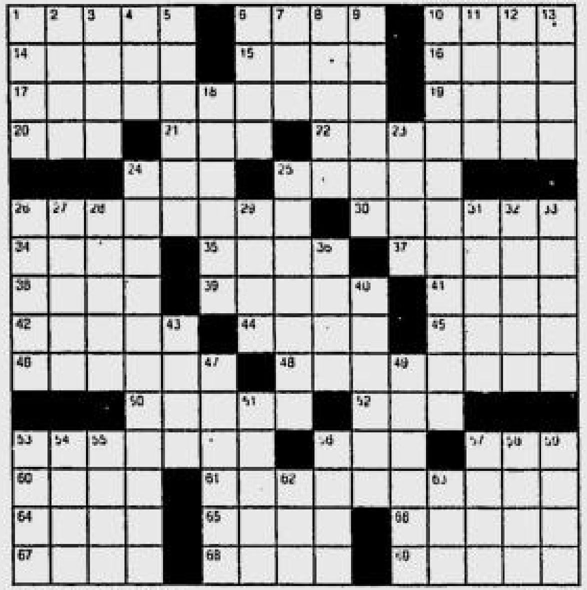
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll find it difficult to control your true feelings. Don't be afraid to tell your partner how you feel and what you want. At least you'll solve the problem one way or another. It's time to get on to better times.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may not like the reactions you get from colleagues today so don't confront situations at work. It's time to get into activities that you enjoy. You need an outlet that will provide you with the stimulation you're lacking right now.

Birthday Baby: You are bright, creative and quite willing to follow your own path. You have your own idea of how things should be and what you want to do. You aren't likely to be led by others once you make your mind up.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

9/11/01

ACROSS
1 Boat lift
6 Rope fiber
10 Shine brightly
14 Full of wrath
15 "Typee" sequel
16 Frozen fog
17 Goof off
19 Judah's son
20 Consume
21 Comic Skelton
22 Nonconformity
24 Multipurpose car: abbr.
25 Spiritual natures
26 Nonchalant
30 Performs a post-victory chore
34 Dynamic leader?
35 Emcee Griffin
37 Tremulous sound
38 Ink spot
39 Entreaties
41 Italian eight
42 Collections of fluff
44 Fast period
45 Edsel or Henry
46 Art stands
48 Former Russian rulers
50 Three Musketeers' creator
52 Boring routine
53 Propriety
56 "__ Poetica"
57 Grow old
60 Swear
61 Clint Eastwood role
64 Push-button forerunner
65 Insect pest
66 Banks or Kovacs
67 "__ Well That Ends Well"
68 Many millennia
69 Subway stations

DOWN
1 FDR coin
2 Locality
3 Extensive
4 Part of TGIF
5 Shred
6 Parka part
7 Rhea's relative
8 "__ Cane"
9 Speaker's platform
10 Highest income figure
11 Salesman's wares
12 Arabian sultanate
13 Left
18 Make over
23 Open position
24 Endangered birds
25 Thoroughfares
26 Aesop's offering
27 George Sand novel
28 Actor Jeremy
29 Jodie Foster film
31 Suppress: slang
32 Violet starter?
33 Walks heavily
36 Boxlike vehicles
40 Van Gogh's "__ Night"
43 Disparaging remark
47 Ink mark
49 Hurries
51 __ acids
53 Arp's art
54 Devil's doings
55 Fossil fuel
56 Lawyers: abbr.
57 Pisa's river
58 Grasp
59 Facial features
62 Fled
63 Fine work

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

L	E	F	T		G	R	O	W	S		A	M	P	S
O	D	I	E		L	O	G	I	C		L	O	O	P
B	E	R	T		E	A	R	T	H	Q	U	A	K	E
E	N	E		M	A	D	E		N	U	M	B	E	D
		W	A	I	N	S		C	A	I	N			
S	L	A	N	T	S		N	U	P	T	I	A	L	S
N	O	L	T	E		H	A	R	P	O		I	O	U
I	N	K	S		O	A	S	I	S		T	R	I	P
D	E	E		S	U	I	T	E		A	W	A	R	E
E	R	R	A	N	T	L	Y		R	O	A	M	E	R
			G	E	L	S		T	E	N	S	E		
A	Z	A	L	E	A		T	I	N	E		R	E	D
W	A	T	E	R	W	O	R	L	D		P	I	L	E
O	M	I	T		E	R	O	D	E		A	C	M	E
L	A	P	S		D	E	T	E	R		W	A	S	P

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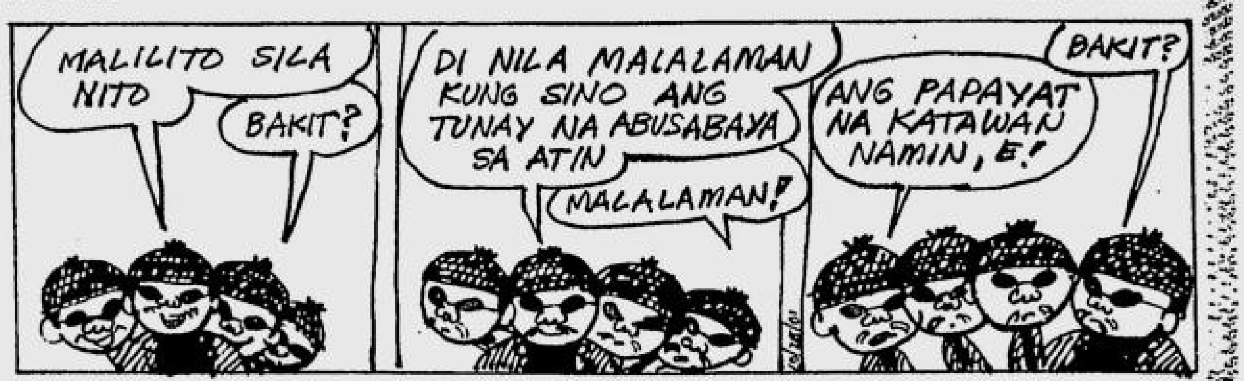
9/11/01

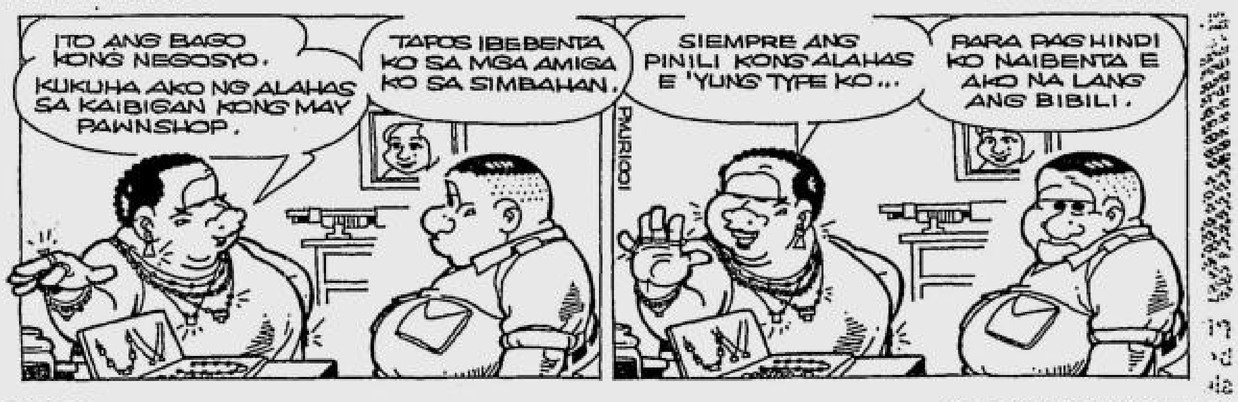
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALILITO SILA NITO
BAKIT?
DI NILA MALALAMAN KUNG SINO ANG TUNAY NA ABUSABAYA SA ATIN
MALALAMAN!
ANG PAPAYAT NA KATAWAN NAMIN, E!
BAKIT?

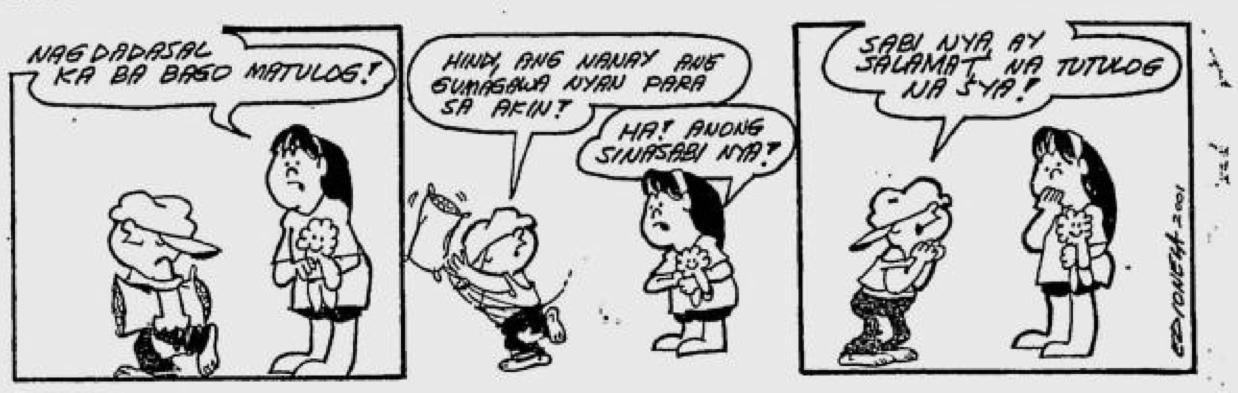
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ITO ANG BAGO KONG NEGOSYO. KUKUHA AKO NG ALAHAS SA KAIBIGAN KONG MAY PAWNSHOP.
TAPOS IBEBENTA KO SA MGA AMIGA KO SA SIMBAHAN.
PMJR
SIEMPRE ANG PINILI KONG ALAHAS E 'YUNG TYPE KO...
PARA PAG HINDI KO NAIBENTA E AKO NA LANG ANG BIBILI.

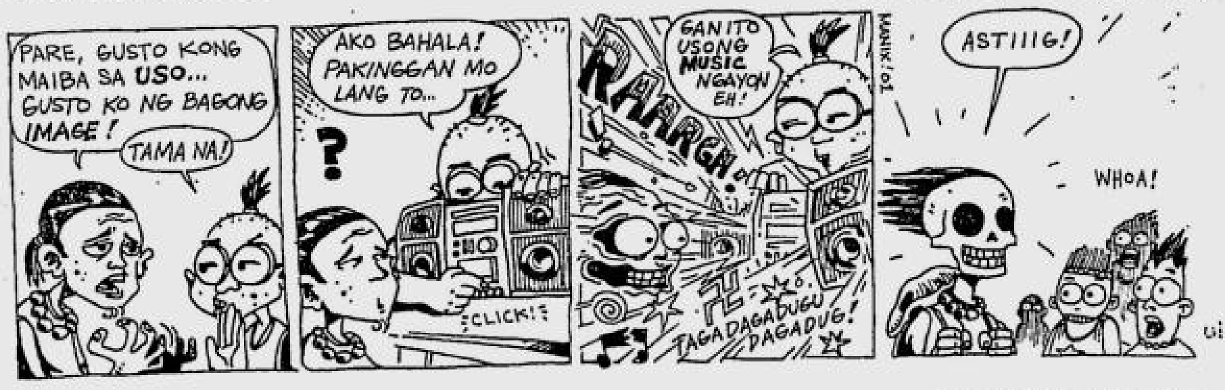
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAGDADASAL KA BA BAGO MATULOG?
HINDI, ANG NANAY ANG GUMAGAWA NYAN PARA SA AKIN?
HA? ANONG SINASABI NYA?
SABI NYA AY SALAMAT NA TUTULOG NA SYA!
EDIONELA 2001

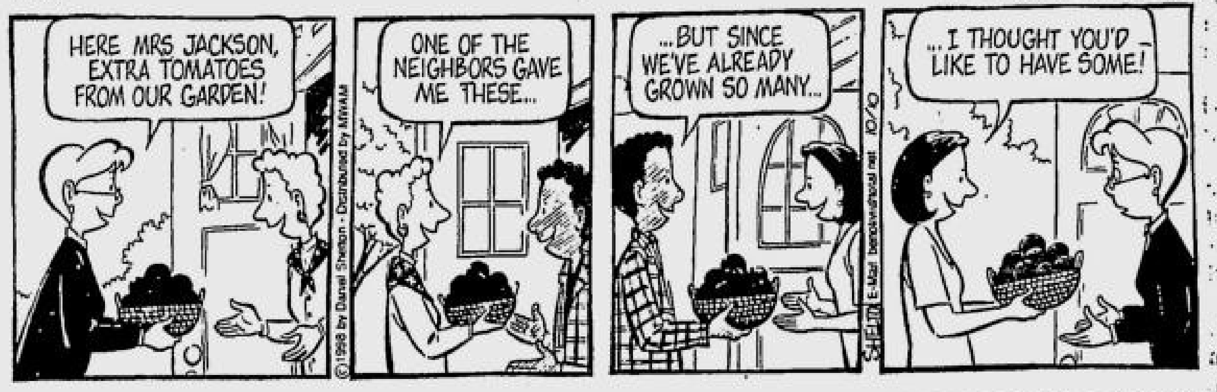
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


PARE, GUSTO KONG MAIBA SA USO... GUSTO KO NG BAGONG IMAGE!
TAMA NA!
AKO BAHALA! PAKINGGAN MO LANG TO...
?
CLICK!
RAARGH!
GANITO USONG MUSIC NGAYON EH!
TAGADAGADUGU DAGADUG!
MANIX '01
ASTIIIG!
WHOA!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE MRS JACKSON, EXTRA TOMATOES FROM OUR GARDEN!
ONE OF THE NEIGHBORS GAVE ME THESE...
...BUT SINCE WE'VE ALREADY GROWN SO MANY...
...I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE SOME!
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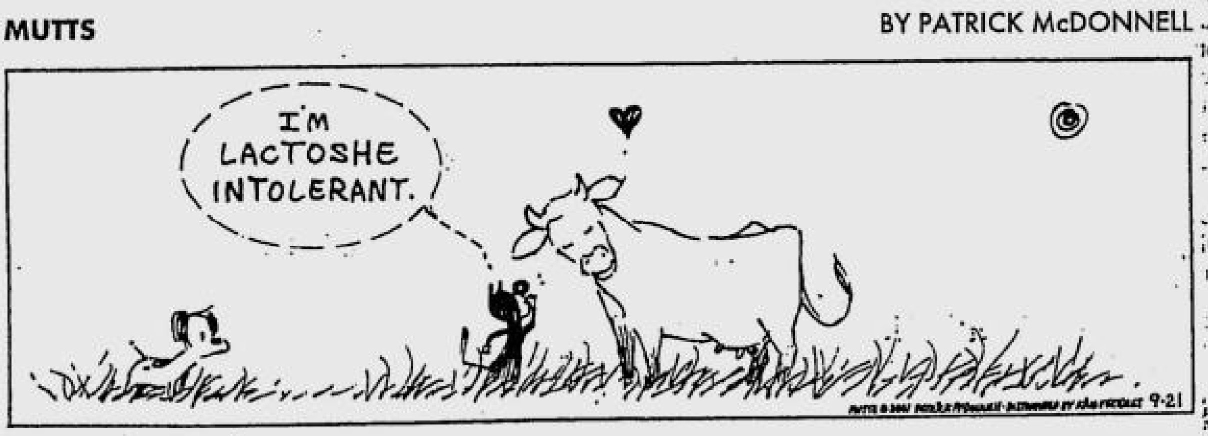
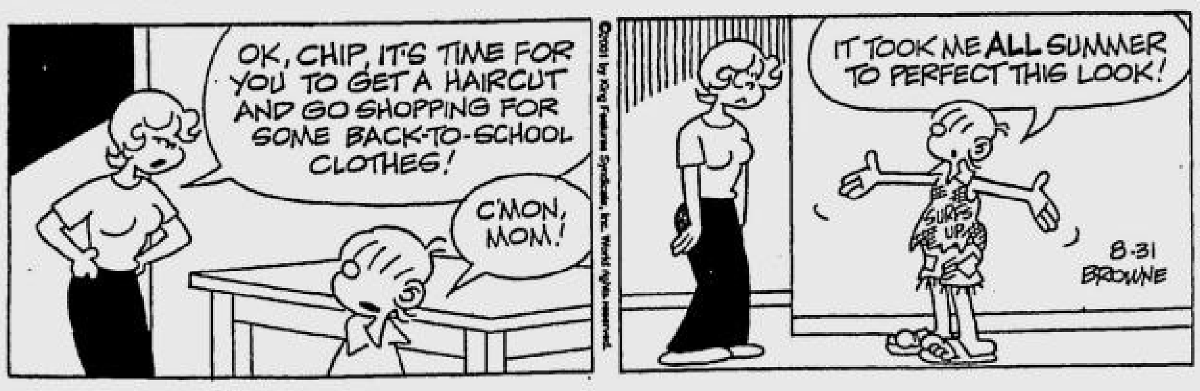
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'M LACTOSHE INTOLERANT.
9-21

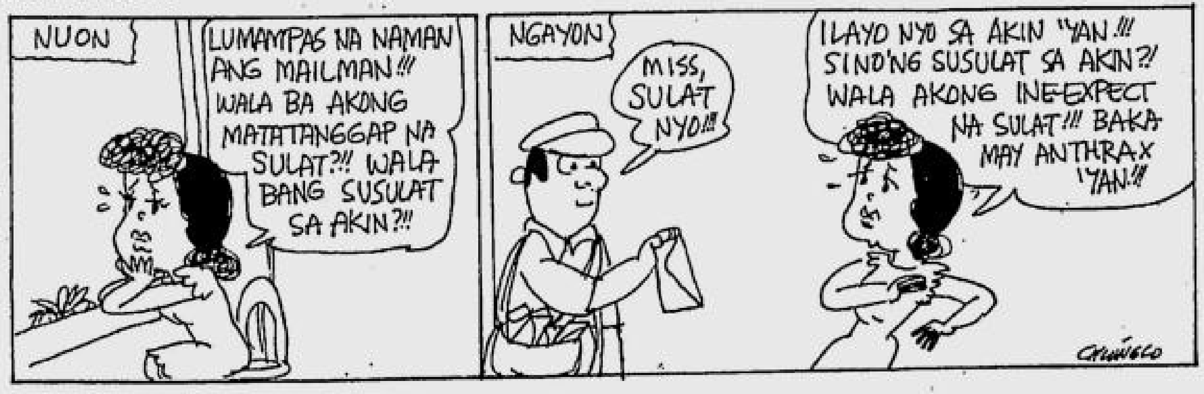
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


OK, CHIP, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GET A HAIRCUT AND GO SHOPPING FOR SOME BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLOTHES!
C'MON, MOM!
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
IT TOOK ME ALL SUMMER TO PERFECT THIS LOOK!
SURF'S UP
8-31
BROWNE

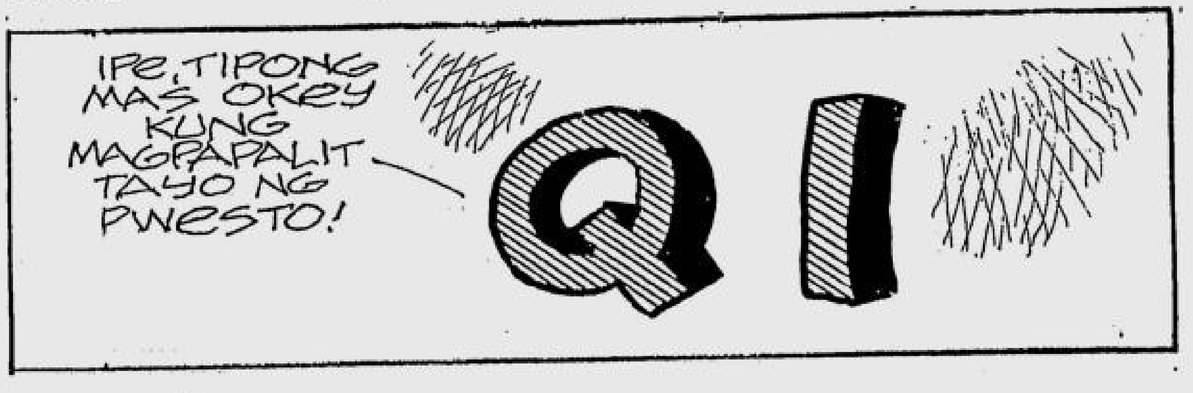
LOVEKNOTS

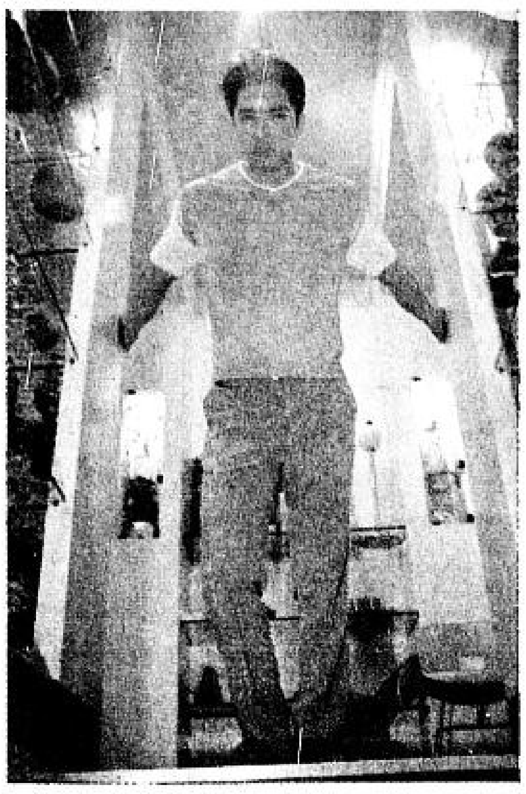
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NUON
LUMAMPAS NA NAMAN ANG MAILMAN!!! WALA BA AKONG MATATANGGAP NA SULAT?!! WALA BANG SUSULAT SA AKIN?!!
NGAYON
MISS, SULAT NYO!!!
ILAYO NYO SA AKIN 'YAN!!! SINO'NG SUSULAT SA AKIN?! WALA AKONG INE-EXPECT NA SULAT!!! BAKA MAY ANTHRAX 'YAN!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


IPE, TIPONG MAS OKEY KUNG MAGPAPALIT TAYO NG PWESTO!
Q I



PREPPY PAIR. This T-shirt cum vest in beige boucle knit with white cotton-knit sleeves goes with this pair of checkered flat-front pants. Belt by MR. Shoes by Loren's.

A fashion not so unusual

(From page G3)

also handled the men's line of Twenty-two B.C. owned by Betty Roxas Chua.

In 1993, Marilou Pineda, then the top gun of Rustan's Commercial Corp., asked him to join the company. He now designs for Oleg Cassini, geared for the market that wants basic clothes for work and play, and his own label MR for the young and trendy market.

Iglesias says he's evolved. When he was young, he was reckless and daring, now he's more restrained. His thinking is streamlined and his approach is sharp and focused. Giorgio Armani's penchant for unusual color tones has been his inspiration, as with madras fabrics and layering and knits. Color blocks or wide bands of color in a dark shirt to lengthen a torso or widen the shoulders are his trademarks.

Young customers like the fit and fall of his clothes.

Conservative

For the conservative market, Iglesias points out that he can't veer away from the checkered shirt, the tee, and the colors navy, khaki, white and blue.

The designer injects interesting details such as big stitches, wider collars, slimmer silhouettes, and brighter tones of basic colors.

It takes an interesting model to bring life to the clothes. *Balikbayan* Alex Aquino is arguably Manila's busiest male model. Just about every gay and gal who has met Aquino can't help but drool over him.

Aquino got his striking Eurasian looks from his Irish-Korean mother and his Filipino father. Unlike some people in the industry who only have surface value, Aquino's positivity glows that it easily opens doors to opportunities. He's got buoyancy, which makes an ordinary shoot seem amusing, and spontaneous warmth that makes him easy to work with. No wonder he easily bagged major campaigns and runway shows in the four months that he has been here.

Social X-rays wonder why this DDG (as in drop-dead gorgeous) model isn't linked to any Filipina. Like most American-bred Filipinos, this gentleman prefers blondes.

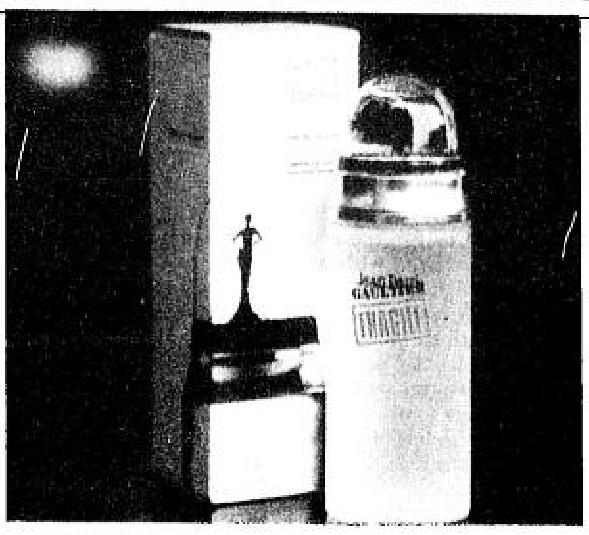
BLACK AND WHITE TANGO. This four-buttoned viscose jacket is worn over a white Swiss cotton dress shirt with a handstitched double collar and black viscose evening pants. Shoes by Loren's.

New outlet for cheap imported products

THE G-MIX (Greenbelt Mix) at the Greenbelt Arcade opened at the second floor of The Plaza Building at the Greenbelt Arcade, Ayala Center in Makati City.

The 3,000-sq-m Mediterranean-inspired mall has 59 fashion boutiques that sell the trendiest and most diverse selections of labeled outfits, shoes, bags and fad wares at reasonable prices. It has a factory-priced section of brands aptly named Factory2U and the Factory Outlet, where grocery goods are at its best market value.

G-Mix likewise houses the 3Gs Cellphone, a chain of 30 outlets that sell cellular phones, accessories and other communications gadgets, and the Smart Wireless Center. An H20 Health and Beauty Shop can be found on the ground floor of G-Mix for women's health and beauty care needs.



Avant-garde fragrance

INSPIRED by the success of Jean Paul Gaultier fragrance, LuxAsia, the sole distributor of high-end fragrance lines in the Philippines, recently came out with Jean Paul Gaultier Fragile Eau de Toilette and its ancillary lines—the body cream and powder puff. The fragrance is for those who are avant-garde in ways and lifestyles, much like its maker.

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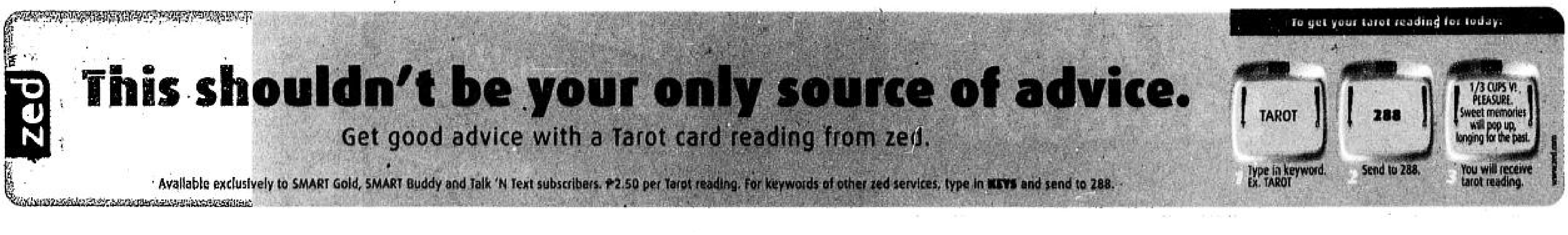

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1/3 CUPS VI. PLEASURE. Sweet memories will pop up, longing for the past.

Don't blame others, blame yourself

Life coach and 'Learn to Relax' author Mike George says people tend to blame others for their misery

ALTHOUGH relationships compose a major part of our lives, the foremost and most important relationship is with ourselves. We interact with our family, friends, partners and officemates, yet only after we have learned about the inner self can those connections bring the rewards that they inherently present.

We may not realize it, but whenever we convey an emotion, its message is sent back to us.

"If our inner world is in chaos, a turbulent mass of anxieties, fears and emotional baggage, it is very easy to blame our stress on others: as we project it, so it comes back to us like a far-flung boomerang. Only by sending our positive signals from ourselves can we be free form the negative emotions of others."

This is one of the precepts that London-based life coach and lecturer Mike George imparts in his book "Learn to Relax." George is management trainer and motivational speaker on such topics as positive thinking, emotional intelligence, power and passion. He has written books on stress-free living and self-management leadership. George did the lecture circuit in the Philippines recently.

In an interview with INQUIRER, George says wherever he goes the most common issue people cite is that they always see the other person—whether it's their partner, their parents or colleagues—as the problem in their lives.

George points out that people bring their pain that is self-created. "The other person is never the problem. And that's so hard for people to get. They think the pain is normal. It's not their fault. It's the other party. This is called projection. I project my pain on to other person. I'm avoiding my responsibility and the work of changing. That leads to laziness."

Being in control

George says we have been conditioned to believe that other people's moods or actions affect us in a certain way. "When others don't do what we expect them do, we blame them for our misery. It's always them; it's never me. That's the essence of their problems," he says.

The key to happiness is to take responsibility for the self.

"In relationships at home or at work, the moment we start thinking that other people can create what we feel, we fall into the illusion that we're not responsible for our feelings. That's when we start we losing power," says George.

If we are in a position of authority, we are conditioned to believe we are in control of others.

The manager or the supervisor thinks he has to make people obey the rules. Parents believe they should discipline their children.

"In truth you cannot control another human being. It's impossible," he says.

"People are punished if they don't do what they're meant to do. This is what kills relationships. I get upset if somebody is late or if somebody doesn't obey the rules of the team. By injecting negative energy into a relationship, I expect the relationship to be okay. It doesn't work that way," he says.

"When you try to control, there's usually some emotion involved. You order them, force, criticize, blame and complain. When people sense your control, mentally they will put this wall between you and them. It's certainly invisible. They're keeping you out. You're not getting in. So the communications begin to break down. In all relationships, trust is the first thing to go and the last thing to come back. The more I try to control the bigger the barrier. Then the less influence I have on that person," George explains.

"Nobody should tell individuals how they should live and how they should act. My responsibility is how I respond to the other. The basic truth is that no one makes me feel anything without my permission. If I'm upset with you, it's because of how I interpret what you're doing. It's not you that makes me feel upset. If I'm feeling angry, it's my creation not yours. Nobody controls anyone else, but we do influence each other."

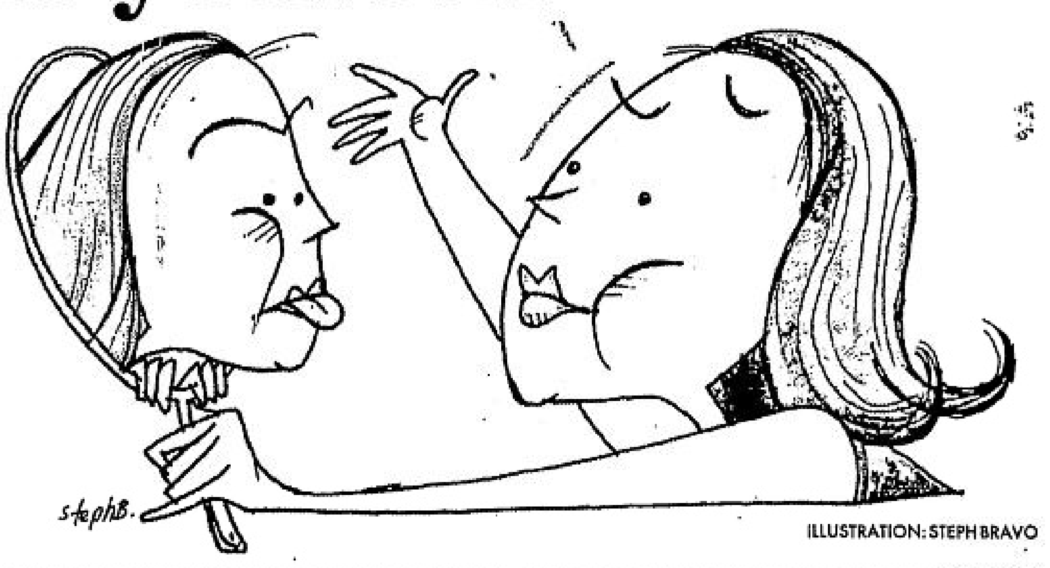

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Accepting others

George underscores the most important principle in relationships and in leadership: by accepting other people for who they are, and not trying to change them, they become more receptive to you. The more you use control, the less influence you have.

This principle is also applicable in creative parenting.

"Parents get upset when kids don't do what they want. The kids pick up the perturbation. The kids know how to control their parents' emotions. That's why the kids are rebellious half of the time. They know that when they rebel, it upsets mom or dad. That's how it gets this energy coming at them. Parents resist the ways the child is. That's why the barrier is still up. There's no influence," says George.

When parents start accepting their children for their uniqueness, they easily influence them with their values.

"Most parents don't realize what they are doing is wrong. That stuff is not taught in school. There's a great hole in our education. It's called self-management—understanding the self and taking responsibility for one's behavior. That's why the world is such a stressful place. That's why human beings are killing each other—across the breakfast table or across the ocean—because nobody understands them," says George.

Life's purpose

If we want to improve the quality of our lives, it begins with improving the quality of our attitudes. Defining our purpose in life gives us a sense of direction. To follow a straight path, we must know basic truths and also deal with certain beliefs that are killing our effectiveness and stopping us from strengthening our relationships.

"The deepest motivation in our lives is our sense of purpose. That's why most people live their lives by accident. The consequence is that they feel they're not controlling their own mind. If I don't control my mind, I feel powerless and hopeless. It's important to clarify my purpose. That arouses my passion, my enthusiasm. This gives back my power from inside which is being stressed till now. To use power correctly, I need to know the right principles, the truths of life," says George.

A basic truth, cites George, is that you can't control other people.

"Don't get attached." George defines attachment as the state when people get hurt when not accepted. In our lack of belief in ourselves, we cling to material obsessions, habits that give us pleasure and relationships as substitutes for our self-worth. Nonattachment doesn't mean letting go of a commitment or love. It means developing a more objective perception in life, looking at things without any emotion and in the context of higher values.

"The moment you get attached, you generate fear. Love disappears in the face of fear. Fear distorts love. Love disappears in the face of fear. My deepest power is blocked when I get attached. Never try to control people, learn to have a quiet mind, so you'll be stable when there's emotional turmoil around you," says George.

Reservoir of love

George points out that the reservoir of love, our source of power, is at the core of every human heart. Unfortunately, love has become an abused word.

"We hardly discuss what it really means so we confuse love with desire. Love is what I am. Love is the highest form of energy that I have to bring into the world. When there is true love between two sources of love, there's a moment of union. We have the capacity to unite at four levels—physical, mental, heart and spiritual."

The physical union is called sex. Mental union is when you tell the other, "I know exactly what you are saying. We think the same way. We pick up each other's thoughts." On the heart level, love is experienced when two parties feel the same way. Spiritual love occurs when two people can walk through each other's world and be totally open to each other.

"Most of the human race focuses on the first 25 percent. They bring love only on a physical level. Hence the preoccupation with physical because we haven't been taught that true love happens at these levels. We miss the happiness of loving at all levels," says George.

After his lectures or workshops, participants claim they have understood the principles. However, very few make an effort to challenge their habits, perceptions and beliefs or just to get out of their comfort zone.

This begins by looking inward.

"We journey within with the help of quiet reflection to find the core of light that is our true identity."

Marge C. Enriquez

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Who doesn't want to be a millionaire?

The increasing number of game shows is fueled by fantasy as much as by want

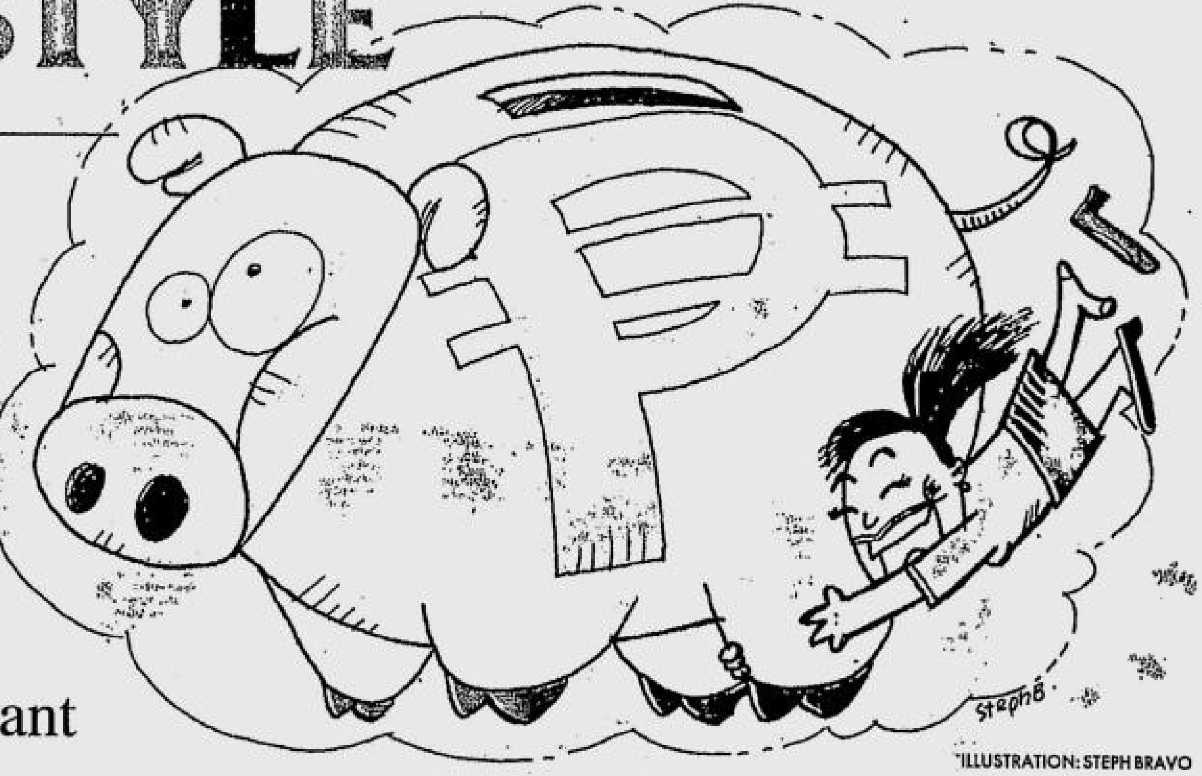


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Jose Javier Reyes

OKAY, admit it. Everyone wants to hit the jackpot. Everyone wants the easiest way out—the quickest, most painless way possible to bring home the bacon. No, the bacon is not enough. Everybody wants to drag home the entire pig.

Everyone dreams of having the capacity to indulge in that ultimate fantasy of suddenly becoming this God-appointed "kazillionaire" whose every whim and fancy can become a reality by simply writing off a personal check or better yet, slapping anyone with cold, hard cash. "*Magkano ka*?!"

In these most trying times, when everyone is being tried and tested in his ability to keep money in his wallet, the dream of making it big comes all too easily. So are we surprised that we are now undergoing an overdose of game shows that promise instant wealth, instant fortune, instant redemption? Are we so shocked that if we are not bawling our eyes out watching soap operas, we are glued to our TV sets trying to prove how much smarter we are than all these contestants (celebrity or otherwise) trembling in their underpants in their pursuit of the grand prize?

Game shows are such wish fulfillment. To the mortals who struggle not only to make ends meet but to meet ends, the fantasy of having all that cash and all those prizes serves like some imaginary panacea to all the problems plaguing their most troubled private worlds. In a reality defined by *isang kahig-isang tuka* living, the prospects of a jackpot serve as a salve to ease wounds that yield daily despair. After all, name one human being who is happy leading the life of an earth-scratching bird?

It is not surprising that popular media should tap this public need. In a world where you are consistently threatened by spores of anthrax coming from junk mail, of being kidnapped while sunbathing in a resort, or even blown to smithereens by being at the wrong place at the wrong time, everyone needs these synthetic escapes to just go on living. Everybody demands the right to still dream… and hope.

But the real fantasy is in the game shows themselves. From noontime to primetime, television offers every imaginable distortion, contortion and even perversion of opportunities.

Surreal

Noontime TV shows battle for ratings using the most surreal premises for competition. Whether it is beauty and talent contests for housemaids, policemen, omnipresent drag queens or even all permutations of couplings, rules are seldom changed. Only the qualifications of contestants are shuffled. It is almost Felliniesque to see young ladies clad in bikinis, parading themselves with nubile dancers doing interpretative dances (that would put Martha Graham to shame) in the background while having lunch. It is surreal to watch over-made-up young men in barongs, shimmering in synthetic fiber trying desperately to look cute while looking like they have just stepped out of the makeup room of Funeraria Nacional.

It is almost pathetic to see throngs of mouth-frothing people rush into the set, adrenaline at boiling point, ready to pounce on the prize. They come panting, raving, ranting, shouting, "Show me the money!" and do absolutely anything to get their hands on the loot. Well, yes, in order to keep the games within the realm of the reasonable, the questions asked them range from the amusing to the downright stupid. But that is not the point really: noontime game shows are not meant to be entrance tests for Mensa.

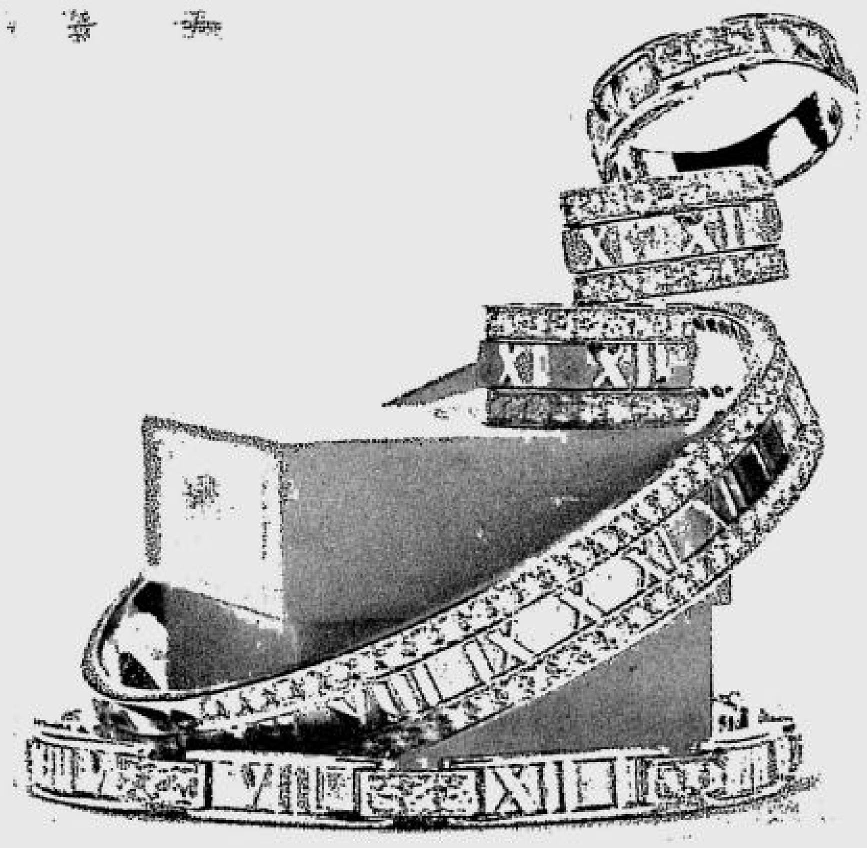
There was a brouhaha before about the so-called profanity and absolute lack of respect of TV hosts while interviewing contestants. So the hosts get carried away once in a while: confronted by near-naked women with mammary glands peeping through their ill-fitting bikinis, what sort of repartee do you expect? Certainly, a discussion about the US policy toward the Middle East and the rise of the Taliban will not be most appropriate. And when the ladies start answering the questions, you even begin to wonder if they are aliens or alien abductees still undergoing trauma from post-reentry to earth.

But when the level of the imagination is pushed to accepting young boys aspiring to be future screaming queens with mothers endorsing their sons' chosen alternative lifestyle, the situation can be a little hairy … and sick. Someone commented that there must be such ultimate despair for a mother to be videotaped smiling and saying that she is so proud that her 10-year-old son sashays like a Frisbee and longs to be Binibining Pilipinas-Universe someday. Intelligence or sensitivity is not required to know that the thrust of this noontime contest is not to lead to a greater understanding of the child or the *kunsintidora* mother. This is just another excuse to amuse lunchtime audiences by presenting another marginal sector of society as freaks in the national *perya*. That, I believe, is the worst form of exploitation of minors. Hmmm… *Alam ba 'yan ng* Bantay Bata?

Bloody game

Game shows on primetime are now serious items. This is where the rating game becomes

WHO/ p.H4



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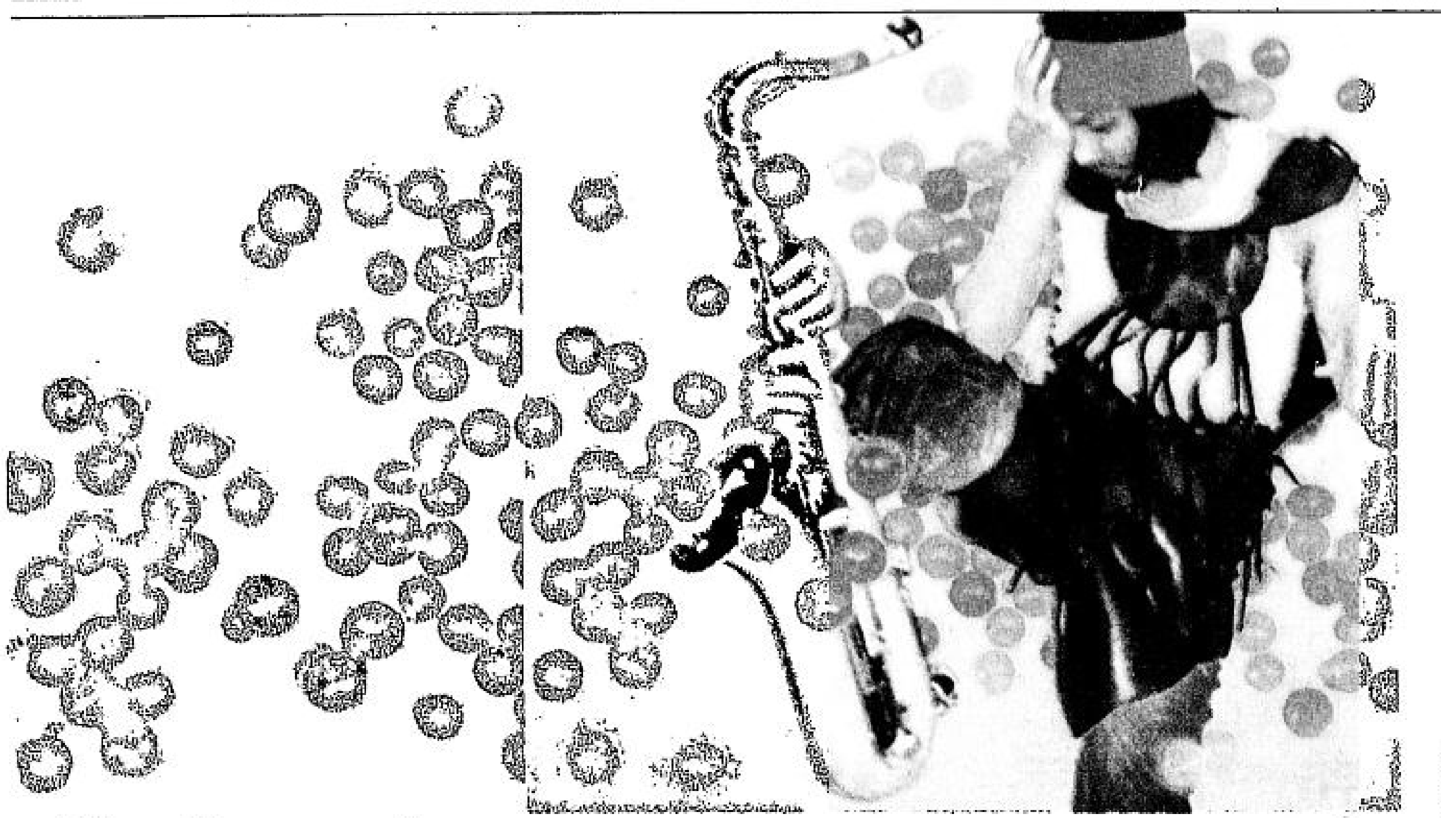


Pinoy pop culture, inimitable and original

Gilda Cordero-Fernando's newest work is an exercise in serendipity

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Photos by Chito Vecina
Digital illustration and
page design by Lynett Villariba

Pinoy Pop Culture
By Gilda Cordero-Fernando
and Manuel G. Chaves
Published by Bench, October 2001

REVIEW

THERE is no rhyme or reason to Pinoy pop culture. The most bizarre things make up our popular culture—from the overdecorated jeepneys to street vendors selling everything from fish balls to toys; our noon-time variety shows, and mellow dramatic soap operas to basketball players and movie stars.

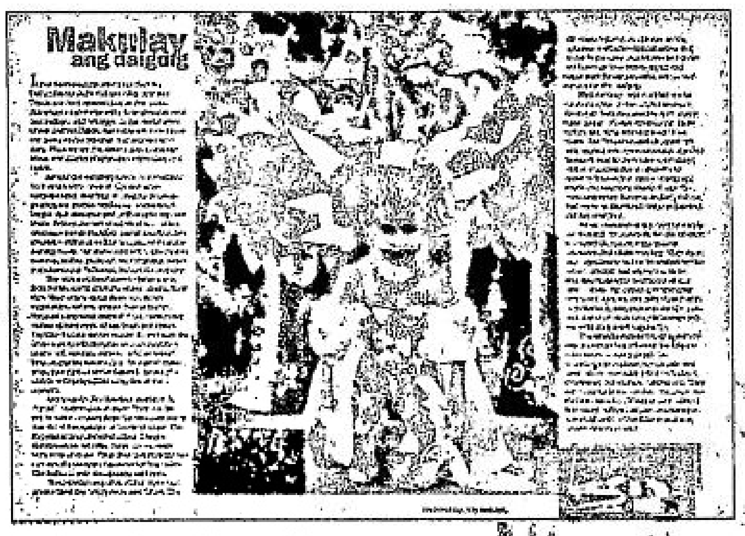
In "Pinoy Pop Culture," Gilda Cordero Fernando attempts to figure out what the Filipino is all about by taking a look at everything pop that makes us truly Pinoy. We are certainly a curious lot. For instance, we apathetically accept bureaucracy and rampant corruption (until it is blatantly excessive), but stop at nothing short of a revolution because telecom companies want to cut down our free "text." "Texting" became the latest pastime of everyone from the rich society matron to the household help. But then again these quirks are things only Filipinos would understand.

"Pinoy Pop Culture" puts together an entertaining collection of essays on the subject, tackling everything from our penchant for "sweet spaghetti" to what is inside our *balikbayan* boxes (Spam, Dove Soap, Freeze Dried coffee, etc.). She stresses that this book is "not a guidebook for foreigners but the Filipino's guide to himself." Fernando tells us things we innately know but maybe need to hear or read to realize. Some of us might cringe because she often hits home with her observations and we are a colorful bunch indeed.

Hybrid

When she says Pinoys are linguists, we instantly get it. How else can one explain our hybrid everyday language composed of *colegiala*-speak, gayspeak and plain old bastardized English. "Feel *na* feel," "Don't be high blood," "Close the light," "make *tampo*," "*astig*," "*hayop*," "gets *mo na*?" The list is endless and yet we somehow manage to understand each other, and many terms are assimilated in mainstream communication, whether it be television, or in schools, or in offices.

The book makes one thing clear—that Filipinos are not predictable. There is no logical explanation as to why we gravitate toward certain things and not others. Who can explain our obsession with basketball and dance sport? Every other person is a huge basketball fan. In fact, every barangay in the country has a basketball court somewhere from great big gyms to tiny makeshift hoops. Ballroom dancing fever also swept the country like anything with countless DIs (dance instructors) materializing out of nowhere. What about Karaoke and beauty contests? We love to sing and we are natural performers, as proven by the "Miss Saigon" phenomenon. We also have an endless array of beauty pageants in every barrio from North to South. Even our daily noontime shows have had everything from a Little Miss Philippines to a Misses Philippines to a Miss Gay Philippines.

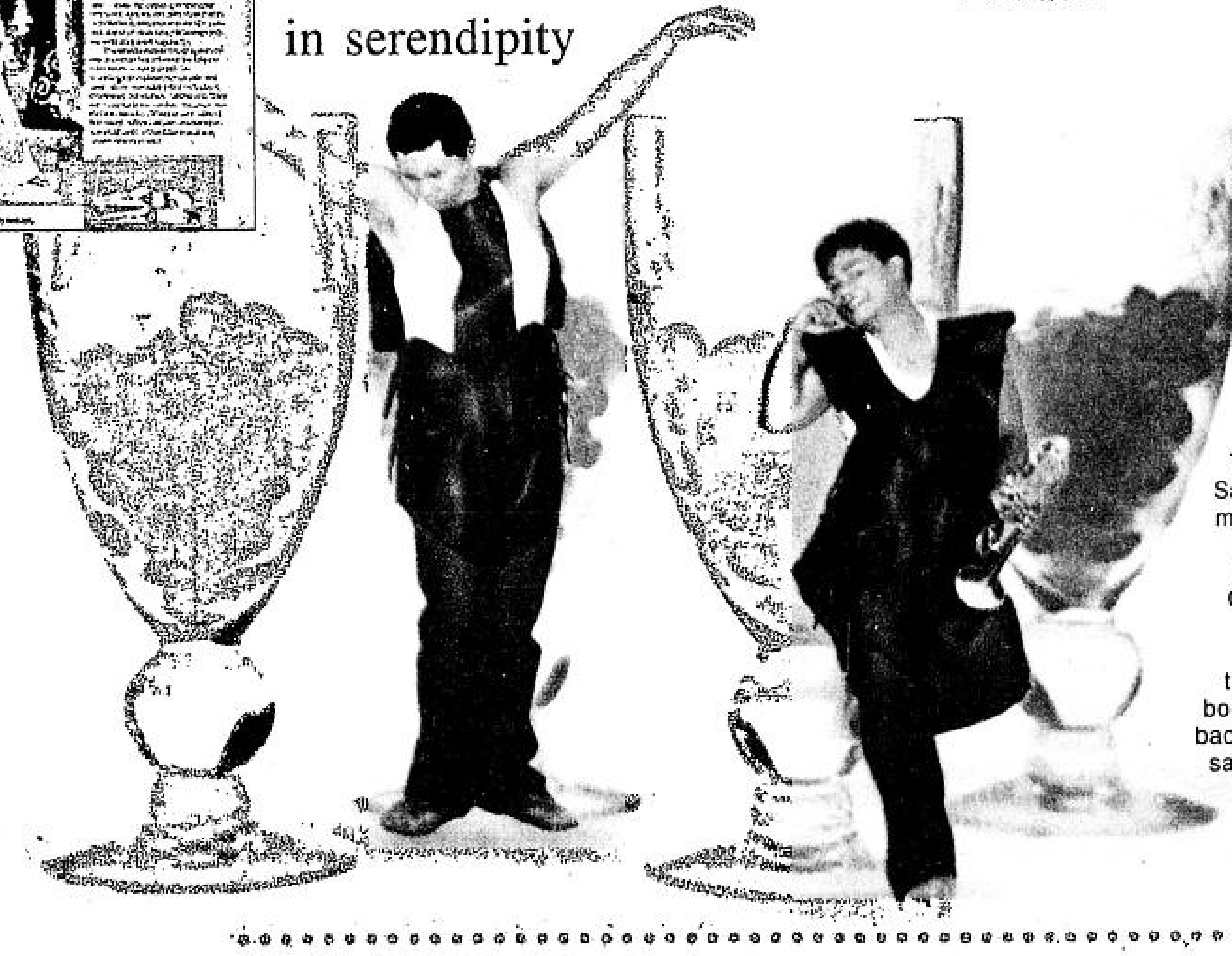


BOOK designer Manny Chaves captures the fiesta spirit in one of the book's spreads.

Obvious

And, of course, the American influence in our culture is obvious. We embrace all things Western from our music to the way we dress. Even the way we name places and streets. Where else would we find subdivisions in Asia called Bel Air, White Plains and Hillsboro? All named after chi-chi American residential areas. Ah, to deconstruct the psychology behind this!

According to Fernando, "The elite think popular culture is low brow and look down on it." In a way this is true. There is something kitschy and *baduy* in what comprises our popular culture, but then again, isn't that what pop culture is all about? And like it or not, everybody imbibes it in varying degrees. It's not just a matter of a rich kid eating fish balls in the college parking lot either. There are certain aspects of popular culture, like music, that has transcended social standing. Bands, from the '70s original Hotdog to today's Eraserheads, have translated the popular climate through their songs, Fernando says. And we know a number of *sosi* people who watch "The Buzz" and other similar shows, religiously, for local show biz *chismis*. And isn't there a Noranian, Vilmanian, Sharonian or whatever in all of us?



RAP FOR THE PINOY. The Radioactive Sago in costumes made of black tire interiors by Ann Wizer and Tony Cajucom. They will wear the costumes tomorrow in the book launch. The background of the sago reflects our pop culture.

Perfect analogy

And just like the dessert that seems to be the perfect analogy for what the Filipino is all about, *halo-halo*, that is, the book is many things. Within are a few stories, e-mail jokes and an informal dictionary of Pinoy speak. All very amusing, of course. As a serious point of reference, though, we found a few details that were inaccurate. However, we only read the manuscript and not the actual book so this could have been amended. (For instance, in a chronological list of "Darna" shows, the 1993 ballet production was credited to Ballet Philippines when in fact it was Philippine Ballet Theater that produced this.) Visually, the few pages from the actual book that we got were a colorful mix of digital photography, *komiks*-style artwork combined with the look of a Western glossy magazine.

Because of the very nature of pop culture evolving and changing quickly, there is the danger of being dated within a year or so. However, this book is serendipity at its best, you'll never know what to expect as you turn the pages, and we found ourselves laughing out loud more than once. At the end of it all we realized that for all the scoffing we do about Filipino time, and how certain things happen "only in the Philippines!," we are truly an original. We leave everything to God (*bahala na*), we manage to laugh even at the direst moments and somehow we always survive. Thank you, Gilda Fernando, for pointing this out.

She says, "Our culture is not based on contradiction, but on integration." We are a conformist society and we dislike breaking from the mold. Often we aim to emulate Western ideals, not realizing that, at the end of the day, our idiosyncrasies are what make us an endearing, fascinating group of people.

("Pinoy Pop Culture" will be launched tomorrow at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City. The show is directed by Floy Quintos. Musical direction by Jesse Lucas.)

E-mail the author at
cherishgh@yahoo.com

'Sayote' pie

Or the effects of Americanization on Pinoy exiles and migrants

BY JOSE JAVIER REYES

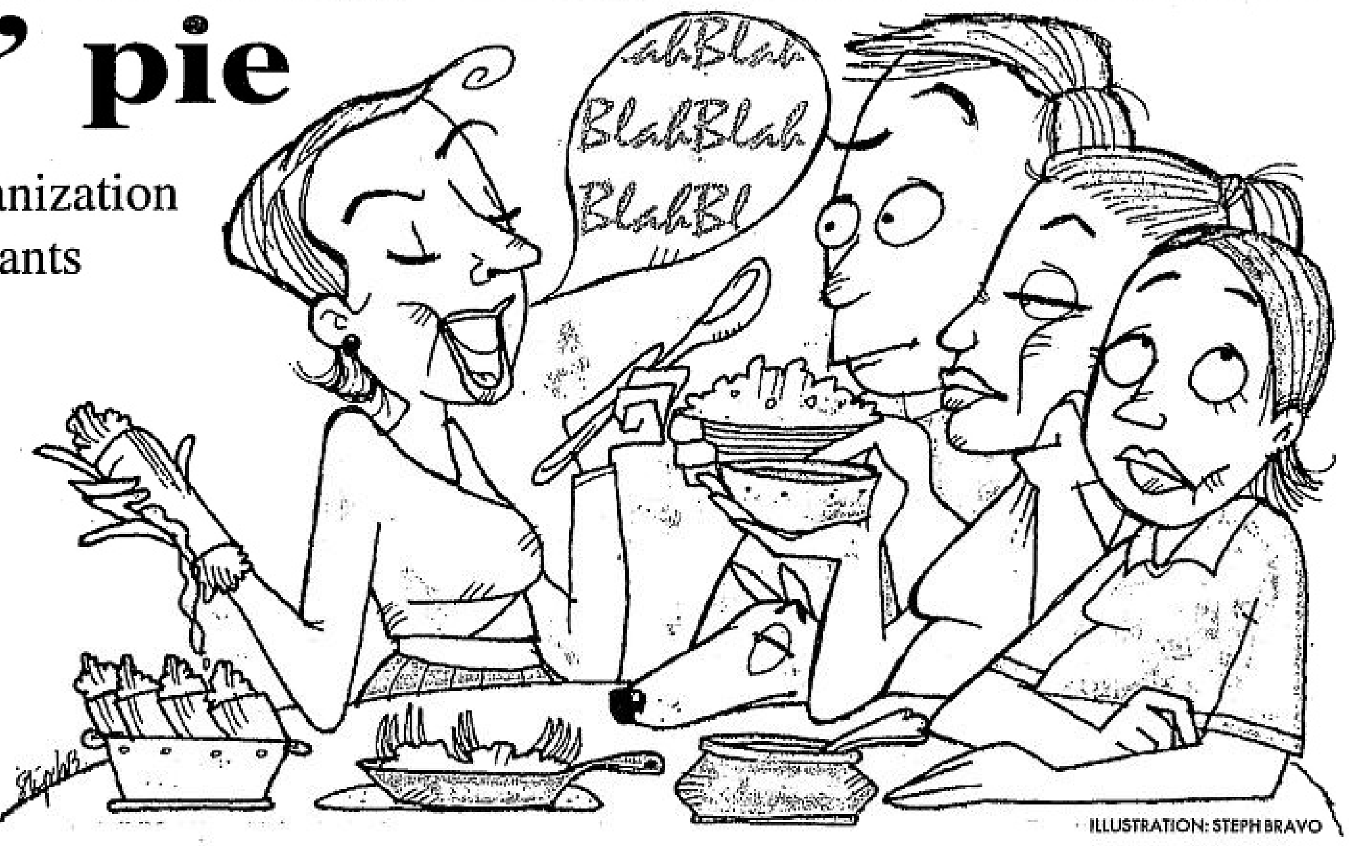


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

IT took more than 12 years for her to come back.

She said she had wanted to come home earlier, but then something seemed to pull her back to that comfortable niche in Jersey City where she has now defined her existence. But she insisted she knew everything that was happening in the country even if she lived in a time zone with a 12-hour difference from her native Manila. And, according to her, after much mental wrestling and conscience sparring, she finally mustered enough guts to pack her bags; board a plane and once again embrace the magic of her Inang Bayan.

The reunions should have been pleasant. Seeing old college friends is like getting a kick of nostalgia with a slight overdose of harmless fun. Reminiscing about the way we were almost automatically warrants that Hamlisch song about watercolor memories and the smiles we left behind. But in this case, the Great Balikbayan from Jersey City was quite determined to dominate the conversation and to reinterpret the fragments of our past.

Not that I am surprised by her ranting and raving. A good percentage of our countrymen (friends and foes, relatives and dissociated associates alike) take great pride in being out there while the rest of us have stuck it out here.

Encounters such as these require constant affirmation and justification as to why the US way of life is definitely far superior ("My God, how much does a pound of steak cost here? Do you know how much sirloins sell at our neighborhood supermarket?") compared to a Third-World existence.

Inferiority

There is this tendency to continuously underscore the inferiority of the Filipino as a people and as a nation by our dear friends who have now adapted to the American way of life. Start from something as trivial as the way the Naia looks ("The moment you step out of that tunnel from the plane, you already feel depressed. *Ang papayat ng mga tao, mabaho.*") to the inevitable elements that make our nation an environmental hell ("All that garbage, all that pollution... How can you live out here? *Magkaka-kanser kayong lahat sa hangin dito.*"). Then the soliloquy takes a more vicious twist, nitpicking on all the negative qualities of the Pinoys that have become a cultural tradition ("They snatch cell phones out here?") or a national embarrassment ("You mean they have not outlawed men peeing against walls in the streets?", "*Naku*, you can't do that to your pet dog back home. The neighbor will call the cops.").

My old classmate from Jersey City went on and on and on while devouring gobs of innards floating on her bowl of *kare-kare*. We all kept polite smiles and went into a somnambulistic state as she literally went through the one thousand reasons she thinks we are all fools to sacrifice our lives by remaining Filipino citizens. She talked about Philippine politics as she learned her so-called facts from CNN; she mocked the immaturity of the voting population by putting *artistas* into public office (then dumping them through a dramatic presentation at Edsa) and why to this very day a little bit of rain creates flashfloods in Manila. She also emphasized that we treated Claire Danes unjustly for simply telling the truth about what the city is all about ("Hey, listen... Claire Danes studies in Yale, okay?"). I told my friend that the movie Claire Danes shot here flopped not only in Manila but all over the world, including Yale.

"Nothing's changed," she sighed, this time plowing through her *lumpiang sariwa* oozing with dark brown syrup with accents of garlic. "It's the same old city I left so many years ago... and if there is any difference, it's for the worse. When will they get rid of those horrible jeepneys? What kind of mass transport system do you have here *ba*?" This exasperated statement she punctuated with a token shaking of the head then announcing her theory that all jeepney and bus drivers should either take qualifying drivers' exams or be shot dead in a ritualistic ceremony at the Rizal Memorial Football Stadium.

Media

Then she focused on the things I do for media. Oh, yes, even she who thinks that music began and ended with Earth, Wind & Fire and can still dance the Twelve Steps to the tune of Barry White, is relatively up to date with Pinoy films. She rents the videos, you see, but for purely cultural purposes. She still swoons over Christopher de Leon although she almost lost consciousness when she chanced on the seasoned actor hosting "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" She hyperventilates when she hears juicy show-biz gossip although the separation of Tom and Nicole affected her more than the annulment of the marriage of Martin and Pops.

She allegedly forced herself to sit through one night of local commercial television and decided that everything was trash. She found the soap operas embarrassing, the comedies insulting and the variety shows cheesy. She found the major investigative magazine shows depressing and, except for Edu Manzano ("Well, he is a La Sallite!"), she condemned talk-show hosts collectively as morons or determinedly unpleasant for auditory or visual consumption. She even went to the extent of teaching me what kind of shows I should do ("Have you seen 'Friends'? You should do a show like that, huh? Now that's really funny... not like those sitcoms you have here. Do they show 'Friends' here?") and what I should not ("You actually do soap? Is that how hard it has become?").

She even passed a final judgment on Philippine movies stating that if the industry was dying, it was because of the natural law of evolution. I told her that Hollywood was thrashing us, and that piracy was literally demolishing box-office receipts. She smiled and said, "But Hollywood movies are far more superior than the crap you produce out here, *'di ba*? I mean, have you seen 'The Princess Diaries'? Now that is a great film." Well, maybe, because to this day she is still a major fan of Julie Andrews.

We, her friends, would like to think that she meant well. After all, we marvel at her transformation from frumpy, phlegmatic nerd of the late '70s to that frumpy, incorrigible atta girl of the new millennium. America gave her confidence. After so many years of living four seasons, her skin tone has not lightened a wee bit, and she still ate *biko* as if it were her last day on the planet earth. And she still held very fond memories and appetite for Chocnut.

'SAYOTE'/ p.H4

Philippine Art
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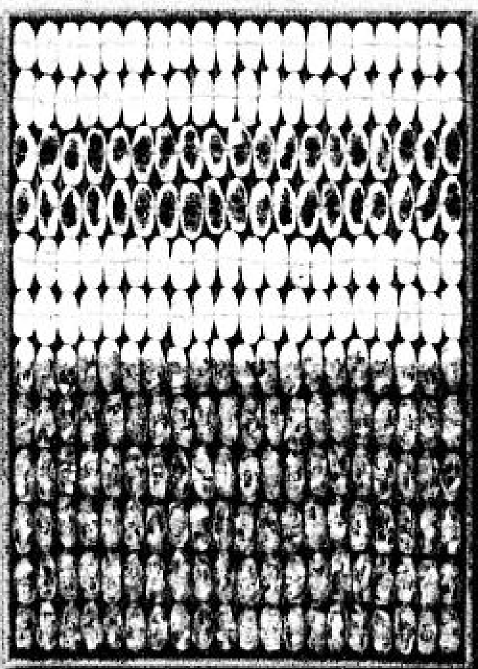
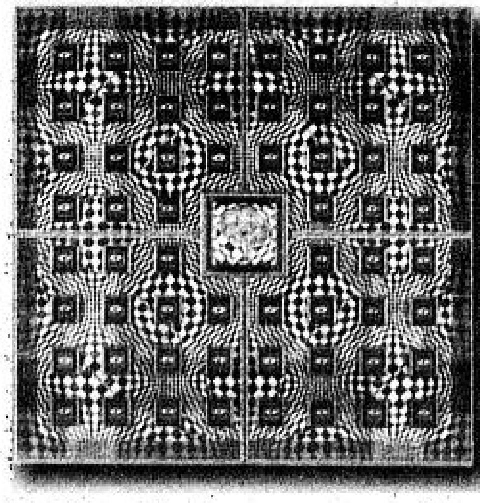
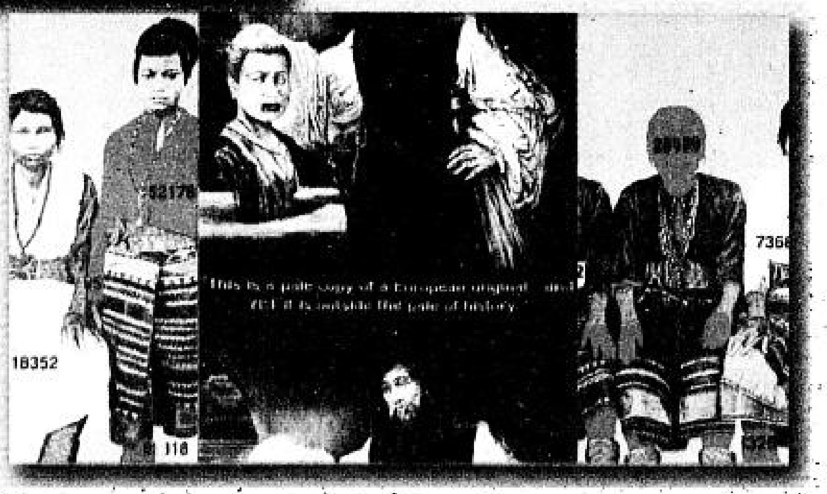
October 6 to October 31, Metropolitan Museum of Manila

"Fall Of The Hero And The Saint"
by Ronaldo C. Ventura


"Recycle Of Life"
by Melvin John B. Ante

"Los Pintados"
by Ramiro M. Abayon


"Windows of Souls"
by John Frank B. Sabado



"Valorized And Commodified Curio"
by Benjamin Dayrit Elayda III

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"Los Pintados"
Acrylic, 182.5 x183 cm.
by Ramiro M. Abayon

"Recycle Of Life"
Mixed Media, 171.5 x 121.5
by Melvin John B. Ante

"Valorized And Commodified Curio"
Mixed Media, 117 x 199 cm.
by Benjamin Dayrit Elayda III

"Windows of Souls"
Mixed Media, 168 x 168 cm.
by John Frank B. Sabado

"Fall Of The Hero And The Saint"
Mixed Media, 191 x 183 cm.
by Ronaldo C. Ventura

Two views on cyber love affairs

IN YOUR reply to Samy (PDI Lifestyle, 10/21/01), you wrote that you found it difficult to believe she had truly fallen in love with a guy she only knew on the Internet. I met my current girlfriend in an Internet chat room. Even before we met each other in person, we knew in our hearts we were very much in love. I hope you'd be more open to these kinds of situations, as times are changing.

MIKOLF

Samy and I have much in common. I am a Pinoy studying in Australia who gets homesick. I, too, had a cyber love affair with a Pinoy guy in the States. Unlike Samy and Mac, though, we had the chance to meet while he was in Manila to visit relatives. Although our love went beyond the Net, I guess some good things never last. Now it's over.

It can actually happen—falling in love with someone you meet on the Net, although most, if not all end in heartache. So I'd like to tell Samy that if the relationship stays on the Net, there's no point in continuing it. They should make an effort to see each other. Who knows, they might not like what they see. Sweet words typed on the keyboard just couldn't compare to a warm hug.

I'm not an expert on this, but it might be significant to note that I got so engrossed in chatting when I was at the lowest point in my life. Many people who use chatrooms have a lot of personal "baggage," so it is pretty scary to ever get too personal with them. If you want to meet a potential sweetheart, don't look for him/her on the Net because often the people there want to escape reality and use the Net to have fun and kill time.

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

It's so easy to be mesmerized by the words you read on the Net, but nothing compares to the normal way of meeting people. There are far better things to do than going to chatrooms to meet your prince. Trust me. I don't want to go back to that life again.

For homesick people like Samy and me, loneliness is not an excuse to stay in your room with your computer. Go out and mingle. How can the man of your dreams find you if you don't show yourself to him?

CHAPS-28

Mikolf and Chaps, thanks for sharing your experience and thoughts. What your letters show, I think, is that in cyberspace, falling truly in love with a person you haven't met is just as possible as falling in love with the romanticized image of somebody.

What's hard to say, though, is which one is more often the case. And, yes, I agree: two people may start a good loving relationship via the Net, but, as Chaps-28 pointed out, "If it stays on the Net, there's no point continuing it."

Looking for her ex-boyfriend

FOR MORE than four years now, I've been looking for my ex-boyfriend. He used to live in the university campus in Quezon City and he was my mother's drama student. I used to see him when were both in grade school. We met again in 1997 when we moved to their area. The last I heard, he visited his parents abroad, then he moved to Laguna on his return to finish his course in physical therapy.

I need to get in touch with him. I don't know why or how, but I have this yearning to find out how he is now. I hope he reads this and contacts me.

REJIN

Miscellany

TO BELENC..@EUDORAMAIL: I wrote you, but my mail bounced. Did you change your address? Please get in touch with me.

* * *

The Children's Rosary Rally for Peace will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 28 in all parishes.

* * *

Couples engaged to be married, or who are not yet ready to get married but are serious with their relationships, are invited to the Nov. 23-25 Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) weekend in Quezon City. Call 810-0222, 256-5275 and 829-6182 or write vincyandelisha@yahoo.com for details.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

'Sayote' pie

(From page H3)

Cute accent

We would like to think she wanted the best for all she loved and have opted to stay in our sacred shores to watch the peso plunge to unfathomable depths for one reason or another. If and when she started lashing out at Pinoys, she was not only shoving a mirror at our faces but justifying the choices she made in her life. She always assured us it was okay not to have maids wait on you hand and foot, even if she had three children, had to commute for about two hours to get to work through wind, rain, snow and excruciating New York heat. She asserted that if and when her kids spoke Tagalog they did so with a very cute accent. She shrugged her shoulders at the thought that her children couldn't care less if they never saw Nayong Pilipino throughout their earthly existence. She thought it was a worthy historical discussion when her kids questioned the fact that our national hero was always pictured wearing a winter overcoat.

"*Mabuti na lang may* video *na ang* 'Rizal.' It's good for my children to know a little something *naman* about Philippine history."

Yet when she got too carried away and graduated from analytic to vitriolic, I bit my tongue, or one of my classmates kicked me under the table before I showed her my claws that would strike fear in the heart of Wolverine. When she started talking about how good her life had become, I wanted to ask a simple question: "Then why do you look that way, honey? Why do you keep telling us that you have reached Nirvana with your gallons of fresh milk, your industrial washing machine, your to-die-for outlet stores and your 'wersh-wersh' kids? Are you convincing us or yourself?"

But I did not do that. Instead, I smiled and stared at her as she expressed supreme lamentation about the terrorist attack in New York City. I tried to empathize with her as she spoke of the World Trade Center as if it were her personal possession. She said she and her husband planned to have their anniversary lunch at the Windows Restaurant on the top floor of the ill-fated buildings. She even shed a tear for her fellow Americans who died senselessly on Sept. 11.

Semantic aphasia

I wanted to laugh at her trying to sound more American than the *Kanos* despite the fact that after all those years, she still suffered from confused English grammar and went into lapses of semantic aphasia. I wanted to tell her that naming her youngest daughter Kimberley does not change the fact that her entire brood badly needed a nose job. But, again, I did not. Instead, I obliged by glancing at the photos she pulled out of her tote bag to show to everyone about how American her kids have become.

She left the other day. I realized that despite all her ranting, raving, observations and ruminations, she is still living proof of what I have always believed. You can take the Pinoy out of the Philippines, but you cannot take the Philippines out of the Pinoy.

Yeah, sure: she always blurted out, "Oh, no, that's not the way we do it out there" or "You know, if that happened in America…" But deep inside, she is still trying to assure herself that she is happy. She is convincing herself that with her brown skin, her jet-black hair and her obsession with Eng Bee Tin *hopia*, she has been fully integrated into a mode of life called The American Way.

"But I still see a bit of positive change," she said as if it were a footnote, "You have stores like Costco and Price Club here *na pala*…" It is as if these wholesale supermarkets and stores defined all the tenets of a good life. So she has gone home. And when she left, she brought with her a *balikbayan* box with a three-month supply of Chocnut, canned *bagoong*, bottled *achara*, dried mangoes, bags of squid flakes and a couple of VHS tapes of Aga Muhlach movies. I can now imagine her going into fits of nostalgia, talking to her friends about how baaad things are out here and waking up at 5 a.m. to get to work five days a week.

I can also see her worrying about opening junk mail, afraid that it contains that mysterious powder that causes anthrax.

Who doesn't want to be a millionaire?

(From page H1)

coldhearted and bloody. When "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" started raking in substantial ratings, the trend became clear. This is "Pera o Bayong?" on hot-spot time slots. After all, the phenomenon of "Millionaire" being a top-rating show is not exclusive to our economically deprived archipelago. Its franchise has been reaping good money and unquestionable popularity all over the world. The show tops the charts from the US all the way to India.

Refrain from being shocked that all of a sudden game shows are sprouting at night like the hot *pan de sal* or *litson manok* craze that struck the country in terrorist proportions. With people craving for money or imagining chances of making quick bucks, the game show craze is about to reach fever pitch.

Now the rules of competition have changed. Television stations know that to grab the audience, the elements of novelty and impact warrant popularity. High-tech sets that look like the control station of "Star Trek" give the impression of gloss and seriousness. Rules can range from simplistic question-and-answer to… uh, undecipherable processes that can create computer glitches. Prime-time game shows are now pitted against one another, with the inclusion of "The Weakest Link" and "Game Ka Na Ba?" The network war is now more mind-boggling than the Strike Against Terror.

The persona employed by the game show hosts range from the serious to the overly excited. Seriousness is equated with acting embalmed. Excitement and energy are translated into persistent shouting with that rehearsed "*Tara na*, let's have fuuun!" tone of voice. In that Lucite-and-light corner of the planet, reality is transformed into a feverish desire to win. The job of the game show hosts is to impress their audiences in both the studio and the homes by acting serious and stoic under the tutelage of Miss Manners or trained by some alumnus of the Third Reich. Or they can attempt to generate electricity by behaving like a banjee disguised as Dick Tracy.

Everyone wants to think that the game is really serious matter, something as profound as the closed-door sessions at the Apec Conference. Yet the element of fun is still an imperative, and this is where the game show hosts torture their contestants by making them doubt their answers ("Is that your final answer?," "Sure *ka baaa*?") or resort to being delightfully evil ("Goodbye!"). All the while, the TV audience screams, curses and goes into fits of simulated insanity trying to prove their superiority over the pathetic mortals about to lose the grand prize!

Not serious

Ah, but that's the whole point. You don't take game shows seriously. The questions are straight from the Ultimate Edition of "Trivial Pursuit" and the test is not the extent or depth of the intelligence of the contestants but getting the cash prizes. Yet despite all our grunts and moans about this new genus of popular entertainment, we still cheer for the winners (if there are any) and scream at the losers for being so determinedly stupid (and there are many).

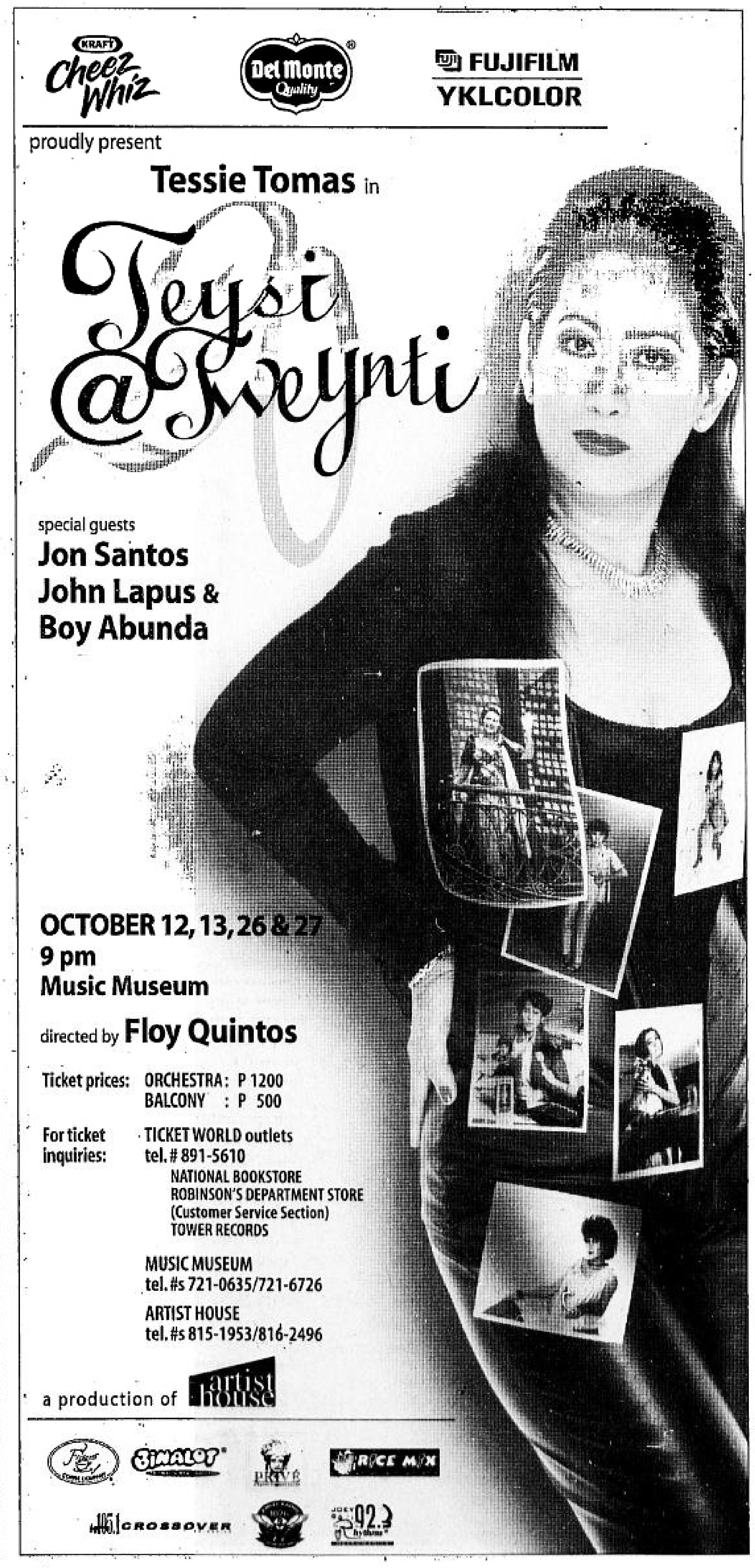
We all imagine ourselves to be right there on the overlighted set, racing with the actual contestants in giving answers and proving to others (and maybe ourselves as well) that we can be winners. As I said, let's admit it. Regardless of who you are, where you are and have been, you still want to hit the jackpot.

That is the reason the other networks are jumping into the deep end of the pool of this trend. They have announced their own game shows with a menagerie of hosts and more rules and regulations of studio contestants and home partners. Prime time will soon look like one of these cheesy establishments in Las Vegas where the TV remote control can take you from one game to another.

I remember a scene that has become so embedded on my mind. Not too long ago, on my way home I passed outside the ABS-CBN studios at about 2 a.m. I was surprised to find a whole throng of people camping outside the audience entrance right there on Scout Albano Street. I saw a grandmother laying out a large sheet of carton to use as a makeshift bed. It dawned on me that she was one of the contestants waiting to join "Pera o Bayong?" the following noontime. She was camping out there, together with mothers carrying their kids, burly men with nothing better to do, sleeping under the naked night and the disturbing traffic noises of the area just because they were dreaming of the cash prize.

Something flashed across my mind. Years ago, I was so impressed by a film directed by Sidney Lumet based on a novel by Horace McCoy. It was titled "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" The Jane Fonda/Michael Sarrazin starrer won critical acclaim as the movie explored the Marathon Dances of the American Depression. Dancing partners formed teams who had to be up on their feet all day and all night to amuse the audience, entertaining the throngs while showing their pain, fatigue and suffering. The feverish dream gave strength to the contestants and their fighting spirit strengthened the hopes of the seemingly heartless audience.

That was when I realized that the fantasy and the craving were serious. The fantasy was a need. The craving was survival. And these were nothing to cheer or jeer about.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